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The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Weekly Newspaper

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BABY STALK

Heights menace sent to psych ward

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Heights parents breathed a cautious sigh of relief this week with the arrest of a woman who had allegedly been stalking toddlers at area playgrounds and schoolyards.

And while Tara Anne McDonald's second trip through the system in the past two weeks has followed much the same course as her first — from police custody to a psychiatric institution — the gravity of the allegations against her have put her under much stricter confinement. McDonald is being held without

bail, and is undergoing a psychiatric evaluation to see if she is fit to stand trial, as a grand jury considers handing down an indictment against her on a battery of charges including multiple counts of stalking, harassment, endangering the welfare of a child and attempted kidnapping.

And there may be more charges to come.

Police are receiving additional allegations against McDonald, who is believed to have been behind a bizarre string of harassment and attempted kidnapping incidents around Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill.

According to a detective in-

olved in the investigation, there have been at least eight more reports brought to the attention of 84th Precinct police, which are being investigated, in addition to four parents or caretakers who have agreed to testify against the suspect.

McDonald was arrested on July 16, at around 5 p.m., after allegedly attempting to wrestle a stroller away from a Heights mother at Clinton and Montague streets.

The woman screamed and McDonald fled, according to police, however they caught up to her a few hours later during a canvass of the area.

See STALKER on page 5

Law tower OK

Council approves school's high-rise dorm

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

The City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved a controversial Brooklyn Law School dormitory plan that will

put a new high rise in Downtown Brooklyn despite staunch opposition from the community.

In a seemingly trivial 11th-hour compromise, Brooklyn Law agreed to shave off the top two floors of

the 265-foot building, reducing the entire height to about 216 feet, not including the water tower and mechanical equipment.

For surrounding community groups, however, the compromise was far from an agreement reached through mutual consent. Instead, it amounted to a somewhat negligible concession, achieved at the urging of Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, Downtown-Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky and members of the council's Zoning & Franchises Land Use subcommittee, who beseeched the Law School on Monday to truncate its proposal.

Yassky, a professor at Brooklyn Law currently on leave but planning to teach a course this fall, refused himself from voting, citing a potential conflict of interest. That move severely limited the community's influence on the council, where a legislator's vote and lobbying power can carry a lot of sway in committee and in the full council.

Yassky, however, did address Brooklyn Law Dean Joan Wexler before the subcommittee on Monday, saying, "To me, the interests in the continued success of the thriving law school and in Downtown



Could this be the new face of Coney Island?

The Brooklyn Papers Illustration

Mouse that roared

Word of Disney eyeing Coney Island electrifies Boardwalk

By Heather J. Wilson
The Brooklyn Papers

It's a rumor the Walt Disney Corporation is calling goofy, but a published report that had the company behind Disney World, Mickey Mouse and the rebirth of Times Square eyeing sites in Coney Island brought more attention to the home of the Wonder Wheel in two days than the Brooklyn Cyclones have in a season and a half.

Crain's New York Business reported Monday that the entertainment industry giant was, according

to unnamed sources, studying available Coney Island land parcels to determine whether there is enough space for them to develop in Brooklyn's once glamorous playground by the sea. The report was rebuffed by a Disney spokesperson as, "unequivocally untrue."

Although Disney officially denied it, Crain's sources told the weekly newspaper that the entertainment giant was at an early stage in investigating land near Coney Island's boardwalk.

The report quickly generated a flurry of local news reports and ex-

cited the sensibilities of longtime Coney Island advocates and naysayers, as well as Borough President Marty Markowitz and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Walt Disney Corporation spokeswoman Michelle Bergman told The Brooklyn Papers on Tuesday that she did not know where Crain's got their information but that the entertainment company does not have any current interest in developing in Coney Island.

According to Dick Zigun, director of Coney Island USA, a not-for-profit local arts organization, the rumor of Disney investing in

Coney is nothing out of the ordinary. In his 22 years as the head of Coney Island USA, which runs the famed Mermaid Parade, the Coney Island Side Show and Coney Island Museum, Zigun said word that Disney was coming to the "poor man's paradise" has surfaced more than once.

Just four years ago, Zigun said, Disney representatives took a good look at the area but quietly walked away after offering Horace Bullard, the owner of the defunct Shore Theatre across the street from Nathan's, a deal that he

See DISNEY on page 7

Toxic fears

Concerns over Lowe's site cleanup

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

There were some tense moments but given the history that hovers over the former U.S. Postal Service site in Gowanus, the first meeting between the community, the developer and Lowe's Home Improvement, the expected occupant, could be considered somewhat civil.

After all, the development of the contaminated, 9.4-acre site — located between Second Avenue and the Gowanus Canal, from 10th to 12th streets — has been the subject of at least two threatened lawsuits,

one of which came from the neighborhood's congressional representative, Nydia Velázquez.

Velázquez said in a prepared statement following the July 18 meeting, "listening to the community is the best way for [developer Forest City Ratner] to proceed with the site's development," and included traffic and access to the canal as salient concerns.

While the traffic impact lingers on the horizon, the most immediate concern facing the site is its environmental remediation, which was the subject of Thursday's meeting, hosted by the Gowanus Canal Task Force Committee on the Develop-

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See TOWER on page 9

Poll: Brooklyn prefers bridge tolls

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklynites would rather pay tolls on the East River bridges as a means for raising city revenues than pay higher taxes or higher bus and subway fares, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released this week.

But if the poll showed a preference for the bridge tolls, in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights, which are at the foot of the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges and stand to gain or lose most from the toll proposal, the debate still rages.

Citing backed up traffic and consequent air pollution, Roy Vansco, chairman of Community Board 2's Traffic and Transportation committee, said, "Never in the world would I think people would seriously consider putting tolls on the East River bridges."

"It didn't work on the Verrazano," he added, citing a backup of cars approaching the Staten Island-bound

Verrazano Narrows Bridge in Bay Ridge.

Countering Vansco's argument, Jane McGrorty, chairwoman of the Brooklyn Heights Association's traffic committee, said it is the Verrazano's poor design that causes backups because the toll plaza fans out and then drivers must all merge again into a few lanes to get on the bridge roadway.

McGrorty asserted that tolls tend to reduce the number of people that choose to drive, thereby decreasing traffic. Additionally, she said, EZ-Pass technology would render the presence of tolls on the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges practically unnoticeable.

McGrorty said the only solution to the increasingly diminishing capacity of the East River bridges to keep traffic flowing during rush hour was to consider tolls and "congestion pricing," wherein the tolls would be higher during peak traffic hours.

"So [tolls are] inevitable unless gas goes to \$5 per gallon," she said, but noted that she brought serious consideration of the measure was a long way off.

The Quinnipiac poll, which asked



Traffic flows toll-free over the Brooklyn Bridge. BP / File photo

city residents which of the three options they would choose, if they had to choose one, to raise revenues for the cash-strapped city, lies in the face of opposition from the borough's political leaders, who have protested the idea since it was first suggested by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Last February, the mayor included in his preliminary budget an item that called for the four East River bridges, three of which — the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges — connect Brooklyn to Manhattan, to become an engine of revenue-generation.

The suggestion caused a brief but vocal political fender bender with clamorous protest from Brooklyn's elected officials, including Borough President Marty Markowitz, council members Michael Nelson of Midwood, Lew Filler of Marine Park and Diana Reyna of Bushwick, Assembly members Felix Ortiz of Sunset Park and Joseph Lentol of Greenpoint and state Sen. Carl Kruger of Sheepshead Bay and Midwood.

Following the outcry, the idea had, more or less, slipped into ob-

scurey as the mayor's executive budget was drawn, and little more was heard on the matter, until the poll was released on July 17.

The Quinnipiac University Polling Institute explored the idea in the context of closing the city's ever-growing budget deficit, asking: "To balance the city budget, if you had to choose, which would you prefer — increasing taxes, increasing subway and bus fares or placing tolls on the free East River bridges?"

They found that 39 percent of Brooklynites chose bridge tolls, 23 percent chose an increase in taxes and 20 percent supported an increase in subway or bus fares. Eighteen percent were undecided.

The pollsters surveyed 932 registered voters citywide between July 8 and July 15, using a random dialing system. The Brooklyn poll numbers were almost identical to the citywide results, which found that 40 percent of New Yorkers favored bridge tolls, 23 percent increased taxes and 20 percent hiking mass transit fares.

The numbers are accurate, said

See TOLLS on page 3



Beer nuts

North 11th Street in Williamsburg was jumping Saturday at a food & drink fest at Brooklyn Brewery.

Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangano

It's official! Promenade reopens

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

What a difference a year makes.

Last August, Brooklyn Heights Councilman Ken Fisher stood with Parks Commissioner Henry Stern against a drastically different skyline to celebrate the completion of the first half of the promenade's \$2.7 million renovation.

Fisher has since been term-limited off of office, replaced by Councilman David Yassky. Stern was aided by the new mayor and replaced with Adrian Benepe, and the view from the Brooklyn Heights Esplanade, stretching roughly between Cranberry and Remsen streets, is now missing the Manhattan skyline's anchor, the Twin Towers.

Among the changes, the less dramatic restoration of the prome-

nade continued, with replacement of the asphalt hexagonal blocks and the blue stone trim along the walkway. Benches have been substituted with those featuring the design of 1939 World's Fair benches, new lampposts have been added and the drainage system has been upgraded.

Additional replacements and improvements to the gardens along the promenade's here are expected to take place by mid-October, with

a planting of snow-in-summers, ajugas and about 10,000 tulip and daffodil bulbs, which are expected to bloom in spring.

"When people come here, to visit us ... you know where we bring them," said Borough President Marty Markowitz, who was also not in office when last a ribbon was cut on the promenade. "[The promenade] is where we introduce people to Brooklyn."

The first half of the project, which cost \$1.2 million, was completed last June with a subsequent ribbon cutting groundbreaking ceremony in August 2001, that celebrated the beginning of the \$1.5 million phase two.

A few weeks later, Sept. 11 would arrive, and the promenade became what Benepe referred to as a "secular church" attracting the

See OFFICIAL on page 9



Cutting ribbon on promenade Wednesday are (l to r) Marian Wood, for Councilman David Yassky, 84th Pct. Insp. Christopher Rising, CB2 District Manager Oriane Akala, City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Borough President Marty Markowitz and Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel. BP / Tom Cullen

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Clark Gesner, 64, Heights actor-composer

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Composer, lyricist, librettist, actor and Brooklyn Heights resident Clark Gesner died suddenly July 23. Gesner, 64, was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Clare's Hospital in Manhattan at 7:30 pm. The hospital did not release the cause of death.

Teresa Johnson, administrative assistant at the First Unitarian Church, where Gesner was a member, said Gesner had previously been hospitalized for cardiac problems and was scheduled for bypass surgery, which he had postponed in order to take care of personal business.

Gesner was best known for his musical, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," which opened March 7, 1967 at the off-Broadway Pearl Theater, where it ran for 1,597 performances. In 1999, the play was staged as a revival, this time at Broadway's Ambassador Theater. It ran for six months and won two Tony awards.

Gesner is also the author of the musicals "The Ugly Girl of Montecarlo" and "Animal Fair," which had its New York premiere at the Gallery Players in Park Slope last season. Several years ago, the New Theatre Company produced "The Jell-O is Always Red," a revue of Gesner's cabaret and theater songs.

His television credits include writing for "Captain Kangaroo," "Sesame Street" and "That Was The Week That Was." As an actor he performed regionally in musicals such as "1776," "Lead Me A Tender" and "Carnival."

Born in Maine and educated at Princeton University, Gesner moved to New York City in 1960 to pursue a career as a theatrical writer. His first job was as a card boy for the children's TV show "Captain Kangaroo." After a stint in the army, he moved to Brooklyn Heights because he'd heard it was quieter than Manhattan.

The son and grandson of Unitarian ministers, Gesner was a deacon of the First Unitarian Church on Monroe Place at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights.



Clark Gesner BP File

Ransom of Redchief." The Heights Players' John Bourne recalled "The Philadelphia Story" as the first Heights Players production

ing to police. Officers swooped down on the scene, caught the boy and made the arrest. The victim confirmed that the boy attempted to rob him, police said.

Officer Jason Previte of the RAM Unit made the arrest.

Easy entry
A 23-year-old man on Am-

ty Street, between Clinton and Court streets, was robbed while he slept.

The victim told police he woke up at 8 am on July 18 to discover his cell phone, DVD player and wallet containing \$30 had been stolen. The victim also realized he'd forgotten to lock the back door.

Man is beaten with bat on Henry Street

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A 28-year-old Brooklyn Heights man was brutally attacked with a baseball bat by a gang of four men on the corner of Henry and Joralemon streets.

At around 11 pm on July 18, the victim was struck across the back of the head with the bat. As he fell to the ground one of the attackers demanded his money, while another said, "Don't hit him anymore," according to police.

The muggers then rifled through the victim's pockets taking his wallet, which contained \$80, credit cards, identification and his ATM card. The gang then fled south on Henry Street.

Left the bribe

An unspooked thief held up a man coming out of a gourmet grocery store on July 21, taking \$28 but apparently by passing the epicurean fortunes.

At around 6 am, the victim, 31, left a grocery store on Smith Street, between Bergen and Wyckoff streets. The victim made it about a block from the store when he told police, a man brandishing a black handgun asked, "How much money you got?"

84/76 Blotters

The victim handed over \$28 and the thief fled. The groceries were not reported stolen.

Picked in market
A woman was shopping in a grocery store on Montague Street, between Clinton and Court streets, when she told police, her pockets were picked by a shoplifter.

The victim, 42, was grocery shopping on July 20, at around 4 pm, when another woman bumped into her. Moments later the victim was bumped again, and she asked the careless shopper to be more careful. She then heard the woman say to someone, "Let's get out of here."

As the victim got to the register to pay for her groceries she realized her wallet had been stolen from her purse. It contained \$24, credit cards and a library card.

Two hours later, the victim's credit card was used at a Banana Republic Macy's. Police are currently investigating surveillance tapes from the grocery store.

Well heeled
A lover's quarrel broke out

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 24 day of July, 2002, bearing the Index Number N00627/2002, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Jerome Feltman. My present name is: Jerome Smith. My present address is: 224 E. 59th St., Brooklyn, NY 11203. My date of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 8/27/39.

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 23rd day of July, 2002, bearing the Index Number N00628/2002, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Sharon Sinclair. My present name is: Sharon Christopher Ray aka Sharon Sinclair. My present address is: 1330 Fulton St., Bklyn, NY Apt. 2G. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 5-11-72.

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 17th day of July, 2002, bearing the Index Number N00630/2002, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Yung Wai Tong. My present name is: Yung Wai Tong. My present address is: 807 1/2 East 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229. My place of birth is: Hong Kong. My date of birth is: 03/18/67.

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1130621 for wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer and wine at retail in a restaurant under the alcoholic beverage control law at 88, Suydam Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11237 for on-premise consumption. El Vacan Restaurant Corp, 88, Suydam Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11237.

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 9th day of July, 2002, bearing the Index Number N00637/2002, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Amir Tyrell Smith. My present name is: Elrice Emel Dukes Jr. My present address is: 315 Lexington Avenue, Apt. 2A. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY 11216. My date of birth is: 5/15/60.

NOTICE OF SALE, SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS, WELLS FARGO BANK MINNESOTA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR DELTA FUNDING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 199(1) AS ASSIGNEE OF BANK ONE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE PURCHASING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF MARCH 31, 1995, DELTA FUNDING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 199(1), CO. DELTA FUNDING CORPORATION, AS SERVICING AGENT v. WOODROW MCLEARY et al. In Re: No. 1084001.

Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on June 6, 2002, I will sell at public auction at the "FOOT" OF THE COASTHOUSE STEPS, FACING ADAMS STREET, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201, being known as 732 MADISON STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11217, being the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the southerly side of Madison Street, distant 450 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of Madison Street with the

in front of the New York Marriott Brooklyn on Adams Street, between Willoughby and Johnson streets, when a silento was pulled — the shoe variety, that is — and a man was battered over the head with it.

On July 18, at around 5:40 pm, the victim, 27, of the Bronx, told police that his 21-year-old girlfriend was off her high-heeled shoe and whacked him over the head causing swelling and cuts to his face.

Police took the woman into custody and charged her with assault.

Boy blunder

Police at the 76th Precinct caught a boy July 17 who is suspected of committing several robberies on the Hamilton Avenue footbridge crossing

over the Gowanus Expressway at Hicks Street.

The first incident occurred on July 13, at around 3:30 pm, according to police, when a woman, 28, was robbed of \$40 and her cell phone. The victim told police she was threatened with a knife during the encounter.

Three days later, at around 5:20 pm, a 24-year-old woman told police she was robbed of \$11, by a boy matching the suspect's description, who threatened her with a stick.

Officers from the Robbery Apprehension Module stalked out the bridge and didn't have to wait long to catch their man, or boy as it were.

On July 17, at 3:30 pm, the 14-year-old boy threatened a passerby, 55, with a rod, according to police.

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Clark Gesner, 64, Hts composer

By Paulanne Simmons
The Brooklyn Papers

Composer, lyricist, librettist, actor and longtime Brooklyn Heights resident Clark Gesner died suddenly on Tuesday, July 23.

Gesner, 64, was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Clare's Hospital in Manhattan at 7:30 p.m. At press time, the hospital declined to release the cause of death.

Teresa Johnson, administrative assistant at the First Unitarian Church, where Gesner was a member, said Gesner had previously been hospitalized for cardiac problems and was scheduled for bypass surgery, which he had postponed in order to

take care of personal business.

Gesner was best known for his musical, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," which opened in 1967 at the off-Broadway Pearl Theater, where it ran for 1,997 performances. In 1999, the play was staged as a revival, this time at Broadway's Ambassador Theater. It ran for six months and won two Tony awards.

Gesner is also the author of the musicals "The Uter Glory of Morrissey Hall" and "Animal Fair," which had its New York premier at the Gallery Players in Park Slope last season. Several years ago, the New Theatre Company produced "The Tell-O Is Always Red," a revue of Gesner's cabaret and theater songs.

His television credits include writing for "Captain Kangaroo," "Seaside Story" and "That Was The Week That Was." As an actor he performed regionally in musicals such as "1776," "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Camelot."

Born in Maine and educated at Princeton University, Gesner moved to New York City in 1960 to pursue a career as a theatrical writer. His first job was as a card boy for the children's TV show "Captain Kangaroo." After a stint in the Army, he moved to Brooklyn Heights because he'd heard it was quieter than Manhattan.

The son and grandson of Unitarian ministers, Gesner was a deacon of the First Unitarian Church on Monroe Place at

Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights.

Alfred Blanco, a fellow deacon, said of Gesner, "He was a delightful, sweet human being. He added light to a conversation. He had a gentle sense of humor. He was intelligent, talented and sensitive."

For more than a decade, Gesner was the theater reviewer for a local publication. At both the Heights Players and Park Slope's Gallery Players, Gesner was remembered as a good friend. Both companies have staged "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." And the Heights Players also produced Gesner's scripted version of "The Ransom of Redchief."

The Heights Players' John Bourne recalled "The Philadelphia Story" as the first Heights Players production Gesner reviewed.

"I directed the show," he said. "I remember Clark commented that everybody expected Katharine Hepburn. But he said that the gal who played the part made it her own."

He also remembered that Gesner had his own special seat at the theater — 89.

"We always saved it for him," said Bourne. "He sat in that seat for at least 12 years." Gesner was remembered as a good friend. Both companies have staged "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." And the Heights Players also produced Gesner's scripted version of "The Ransom of Redchief."

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Vito beats Hil over Ed \$\$

By Heather J. Wilson
The Brooklyn Papers

Rep. Vito Fossella declared victory Friday in his effort to preserve the current distribution of Title I funding for Brooklyn schools after an amendment put forth by Sen. Hillary Clinton failed to achieve a compromise in a House-Senate conference committee.

That amendment would have reworked the federal funding formula, which currently requires that education funds for poor children be doled out on a county by county basis, rather than by school district.

Fossella said that once he got word of the plan, he mobilized support against Clinton's amendment. Brooklyn has 293 Title I schools, out of 384, and 189,000 Title I-eligible students. A school is considered a Title I institution if its student makeup is comprised of 68 percent or more students whose family income is below the poverty level.

According to Fossella spokesman Craig Donner, each borough's Title I schools receive education funding based on the total number of Title I-eligible students in that borough — taking into considera-

tion those students who are Title I-eligible but whose schools are not regarded as Title I institutions because its student population does not meet the 68 percent requirement.

Title I funds, therefore, never reach a Title I student who does not attend a Title I school, although their head-count eligibility still translates into federal money elsewhere.

"Let's say there are 1,000 Title I-eligible students but only 500 go to Title I schools. Brooklyn will get money for all 1,000 students even though 500 of them benefit," Donner said of the current Title I formula.

"The way it worked prior to 1995 was all the money went to the central Board of Education and then the Board of Education gave money only to Title I schools. So with those numbers as an example, Brooklyn only would have received funding for 500 students."

Because Brooklyn's poverty is less concentrated than in the other four boroughs, Donner said the formula safeguards the borough from losing money. But Clinton believes the formula is far from fair because boroughs with heavy poverty concentrations divide the Title I money among more students per school.

According to Clinton spokeswoman Nina Blackwell, under the current funding method, the Bronx — where

the concentrations of poverty are the greatest in the city — receives \$522 per student. Queens receives \$771 per student and comes in second to the Bronx in terms of poverty concentration, with Manhattan, in third, receiving \$712 per student. Brooklyn receives \$811 per student and Staten Island, Fossella's home borough, which comprises the largest portion of his district, receives \$1,718 per student.

Clinton's amendment, which was passed by the Senate in 1995, would have required that the federal money be distributed according to the formula used prior to 1995.

"She aimed to correct this inequity," Blackwell said. Title I funding currently results in dramatic differences in funding per student throughout the city. (Clinton's) change would ensure Title I increases for

every borough in the coming year and she remains committed to correcting this inequity in educational assistance."

Fossella contends that formula would have actually stripped Brooklyn students of \$3.8 million.

"For the Brooklyn school system and parents and teachers, especially in a mid-year adjustment like this, to have to find almost \$4 million, is not an easy task. I think the last thing we want to do is change an equitable formula and take money out of the pockets of Brooklyn schools," Fossella said. "New York City came up with 68 percent threshold, and we don't think that is a fair number. We have been arguing for the Board of Education board to lower that threshold. We want to see more kids benefit from Title I dollars."

The current formula was drafted by Rep. Susan Molinari, Fossella's predecessor, in 1994. Last year, Congress re-examined and ultimately rejected rewriting the formula during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Stabs ex in 3rd Ave. apt.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A woman was arrested after allegedly stabbing an ex-boyfriend in the shoulder with a letter-opener on July 20.

The two got into an argument at an apartment on Third Avenue, between St. Mark's Place and Warren Street, at around 9 a.m. The row turned violent and the woman stabbed her ex-beau, 63, according to police.

The woman was arrested along with another woman, whose offense could not be determined at press time.

Crime pays
A parking ticket scofflaw opted to rack up one debt to society — namely grand larceny — to pay off another.

On July 10, at around 3 p.m., a woman, 52, was notified by a bank representative that her credit card had been used to pay off \$1,619 in parking tickets.

The victim, of Park Slope, is not sure where she might have encountered the delinquent driver but is certain that her Visa card was used without her consent. Police are investigating.

School robbed
A school on Lincoln Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues, was burglarized of four digital cameras valued at \$4,000.

The room was locked up by two teachers at around 4:30 p.m. on July 16, but when they returned on the morning of July 19, at around 9:45 a.m., the door was unlocked and the cameras were gone.

Cash & booze
A burglar unlawfully treated himself to cocktails by flashlight on July 20, from a restaurant on Seventh Avenue, between Third and Fourth streets.

The restaurant had closed at around 2 a.m. on Saturday, but when a 26-year-old employee came to open the business at around 10 a.m. the following morning, he found the padlocks had been removed and the front gate had been opened.

The burglar made off with \$700 in cash, \$30 in quarters and assorted liquors, valued at \$800.

Call dropped
A 30-year-old woman was violently interrupted while speaking on her cell phone at Berkeley Place off Seventh Avenue.

At around 1 a.m. on July 19, the victim was making a call when, she told police, someone ran up behind her, pushed her to the ground, grabbed her phone and her pocketbook and then fled.

The victim suffered no in-

78/72 Pct.

juries but lost her phone, credit card, MetroCard, \$40 and her pocketbook, valued at \$200.

Insult to injury

A local merchant was robbed of her wallet and then her credit card was illegally used at other stores.

At around noon, on July 6, the victim's wallet was stolen from out of her pocketbook while she was working at her boutique on Sixth Avenue at Dean Street. Ten days later, the thief began racking up charges to the card, according to police.

Bloody trail

A burglar made off with \$10,000 in jewelry from a business on Fifth Avenue at 12th Street, apparently hurting himself in the process.

A 34-year-old employee opened the store at around 10 a.m. on July 15, to find the front gate pried open, the front window smashed and display cases looted. He also discovered blood in the store, which police believe may belong to the thief.

A hand tool used in the break-in was found on the scene.

Stabbed on 5th

A 20-year-old man was passing along Fifth Avenue, between 14th and 15th streets, when he was attacked by four men.

At around 8 p.m. on July 20, the victim was thrown to the ground by the four attackers and stabbed repeatedly in the back, arm and chest.

The extent of the man's injuries were not included in the police report.

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS SINCE 1976

Atlantic Antic canceled thanks to spring fair

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The increasingly less annual September street fair, the Atlantic Antic, has been cancelled for the second straight year, eliminating the biggest fundraiser for the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation and costing the group so much in funding that they have had to let go their executive director.

Last year, Mayor Rudy Giuliani revoked all street-closing permits in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center to keep law enforcement personnel concentrated on public safety.

To make up for the absence of that street festival, the LDC held its "Atlantic Antic Spring Fair" on May 4, featuring more artistic and child-friendly programs than in years past. However, the city's policy is to grant only one street closure permit per year, leaving the LDC, founded to promote economic development from Fourth Avenue to the East



Carl Blumenthal is out.

River, with no permit for its regular Antic this September.

"The city has a tradition of some duration... that an organization is granted only one street-closing permit per year," said the LDC's president, Candace Damon.

"We had been hopeful that that tradition would be ignored in this instance given the circumstances of last year," she said. "Unfortunately, we were not successful in persuading the city to do away with tradition."

Damon defended the LDC



A musician performs at the Atlantic Antic in 1999.

decision to hold a fair in May despite the fact that it ran the risk of losing the group's biggest fundraiser.

"We needed to have a fundraiser when we did because we did not have a September, 2001 event," she said. "So if we were going to continue paying staff and undertaking programmatic activities, a fundraiser between September, 2001 and September, 2002 was an absolute necessity."

The annulment not only cancels one of the avenue's busiest shopping days — estimated to draw about 500,000 people to more than 400 vendors, including 100 local merchants — but also cost the group its only full-time employee, executive director Carl Blumenthal, who is stepping down because the LDC can no longer pay him.

"It's sad," Damon said. "It's powerful & effective treatment that will save YOU money, suffering, & time. First Time Patients Receive Expert Diagnosis & Acupuncture Treatment (including these extra bonuses, valued at \$275). But your first visit is only \$125. (See special discount offer below). Why? When you get well quicker, you will refer me to your friends."

While the May 4 event was hailed as a pragmatic success, winning recognition from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the Department of Business Services as a paradigm of grassroots community-based economic initiatives, it was not successful monetarily.

Damon estimated that traditionally the Antic nets between \$35,000 and \$50,000, while the spring fair, she said, "did a little better than break even."

"Financially, it was not as successful because it is very hard to position a new date," Damon added. "The Antic has 27 years of experience and everyone knows that date."

The LDC has an annual operating expense of around \$100,000, the bulk of which is covered from the Antic's profits and revenues from the LDC-owned building at 494 Atlantic Ave., which houses its basement offices as well as four residential tenants and the ground-floor cafe, Flying Saucer Cafe.

Blumenthal is stepping down after two years in his current position.

"I'm going to miss the place," Blumenthal said. "But I'm going to stay in touch and I'm looking forward to a great future for Atlantic Avenue. I hope I made a contribution."

Damon herself is a volunteer with the LDC, holding a full-time position as a partner with the consulting firm of Hamilton, Rabinowitz & Alschuler. The board of directors includes 11 more volunteers.

Additional funding has been provided to support the creation of a master plan for the avenue, which is interjecting to a pair of other major public works projects in the borough, the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park development along the East River from Atlantic Avenue to the Manhattan Bridge, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music Cultural District in Fort Greene.

In March, the LDC issued a request for proposals (RFP), and two months later, Denver-based Civitas Inc., was selected to lead the planning.

While the LDC will attempt to maintain operations on a

sheering, Damon said the master plan would not be affected. That should be completed by this Christmas.

As for future Antics, whether they will be held in spring or September of next year, Damon said, "That's something we'll discuss as a board and something we'll discuss with the merchants and vendors."

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TOLLS

Continued from page 1
Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac Polling Institute, an independent pollster that regularly surveys residents in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut about political races and issues of public concern.

"How do you know we're right?" asked Carroll. "The only test you can use is the track record on stuff you can ensure. The elections we've been right [and] we use the same system."

The poll was galvanizing to advocates of bridge tolls, such as Transportation Alternatives, a Manhattan-based non-profit organization that lobbies for decreased reliance on cars.

"It's not surprising at all," said John Kashy, the group's executive director. "It costs you three bucks a day to take public transit, but people who drive don't have to pay. That fact is not lost on your average Brooklynite."

"The traveling public understands that charging more for transit will cause more people to drive, which causes more honking, more traffic, more air pollution — and they don't want that," Kashy added.

Markowitz, however, was not ready to hit the breaks on his anti-toll argument reiterating what he said several months ago when the idea first came up in the mayor's budget.

"The borough president believes that we must find ways to increase revenues but he feels that East River tolls aren't the best way to do that," said his spokesman Andy Ross. "Re-instituting the commuter tax and a small temporary income tax surcharge on those earning more than \$150,000 a year is far more equitable."

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A patient's guide to knee pain and surgery

Head of the knee center at Maimonides exposes knee pain's potential dangers & myths

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Ronald P. Grelsamer, MD, who is chief of Hip and Knee Reconstruction at Maimonides Medical Center, has published "What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Knee Pain and Surgery: Learn The Truth about MRI's and Common Misdiagnoses — and Avoid Unnecessary Surgery," a concise, straight-forward guide with answers to dozens of important questions about knee pain and surgery.

Dr. Grelsamer's clear, candid book offers expert advice on solutions other than surgery for the millions of Americans of all ages who suffer from knee pain. Dr. Grelsamer also provides concrete guidance on

relieving pain for virtually every knee condition, takes a revealing look at the hidden causes of knee pain and provides needed guidelines for finding the right knee doctor.

Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Grelsamer's book offers warnings about MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), an extraordinary tool that allows doctors to look inside the human body, but a tool with significant limitations when it comes to diagnosing common knee ailments. He notes several common conditions that can be missed by MRI: early arthritis, partial ligament tears, kneecap malalignment and cartilage tears; and offers cautions for avoiding surgery that knee doctors often recommend unnecessarily, based on the misleading of MRI in-

ages. In fact, the accuracy of the MRI is arguably one of the greatest myths in the world of orthopedic medicine.

"If this book had been written 15 years ago, perhaps there would be fewer misconceptions about knee pain and the surgery to correct it," lauds Prof. Thomas A. Einhorn, MD, chairman of the Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Grelsamer has crafted not just a readable analysis of the options for knee pain and surgery, but a clear, useable guide from which millions of Americans can benefit. Among the reader-centered features of

"What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Knee Pain and Surgery" are:

- Specific warnings about how to prevent and care for injuries from running, tennis, skiing, basketball, soccer and other sports
- Information on two simple, underutilized X-rays that could save thousands of dollars in medical tests
- Rehabilitation exercises for each type of knee injury
- A step-by-step program for alleviating knee pain due to arthritis

A noted researcher of orthopedic injuries and joint replacement procedures, Dr.

Grelsamer is a board certified orthopedic surgeon. He has published numerous books and articles in academic journals. He also is a member of numerous professional societies, including the Orthopedic Research Society, and has been recognized by his peers for excellence, as evidenced by his receipt of such awards as the 1995 research award from the American College of Sports Medicine, Greater New York

Chapter. Dr. Grelsamer has been listed in Castle Connolly's "America's Top Doctors" and New York magazine's "Best Doctors of New York."

Dr. Grelsamer is a recognized pioneer in the areas of hip and knee reconstruction. He says the knee center at Maimonides prides itself in providing individualized care that recognizes that some patients require skilled physical therapy, while others require complex surgery.

The Maimonides orthopedic team is dedicated to improving mobility and function while minimizing the pain and discomfort of bone, joint, muscle and ligament problems. A team of talented and skilled orthopedic surgeons treats a full range of musculoskeletal conditions from simple fractures to severe arthritis of the hip and knees; sports-related injuries, scoliosis and other spinal disorders. Maimonides, a 705-bed facility, is the third largest independent teaching hospital in the United States, offering highly sophisticated medical and surgical care provided by world renowned physicians, skilled nurses and dedicated support staff. Widely recognized for its achievements in medical technology and patient satisfaction, Maimonides expertly serves the distinct need of New York residents while attracting patients from around the globe.

Health Plus honors students with B+ or higher averages

Health Plus

Health Plus rewarded 1,213 first-to eighth-grade students that got an overall average of B+ or higher in all their academic classes this year at Project A+ Plus, a week-long student reward program.

From July 8 to July 12, the children, who receive health insurance through Health Plus, were awarded Toys 'R Us gift

certificates, T-shirts from the organization, as well as children's books donated by the Neighborhood Literacy Campaign.

The students, ages 6 through 12, presented their report cards and received their gift certificates at Health Plus community-based locations in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens. Parents were delighted and proud to see that their children's efforts were

recognized. Out of all the students acknowledged, around 83 received top honors as Dean's List for receiving 95 percent or higher.

"Health Plus feels that education is a vital part of our member's quest for a better standard of living," says Dominic Mancara, Health Plus Chief Marketing Officer. "By recognizing academically high achievers, Health Plus is encouraging all students to study hard during the entire academic year."

Health Plus has rewarded over 8,000 students that received good grades since Project A+ began in 1991. The project's objective is to encourage students to recognize the value of school and the long-term benefits of securing good grades.

BROOKLYN — Health Plus held Project A+ Plus in its 37th Street office in Staten Island to recognize first-to eighth-grade students that got an overall average of B+ or higher in all their academic classes this year. More than 750 students came to the

Brooklyn locations to receive their recognition.

BRONX — Health Plus' Project A+ Plus was held in its Stratford Avenue office to recognize first-to eighth-grade students that got an overall average of B+ or higher in all their academic classes this year. More than 26 students came to the Bronx location to receive their awards.

STATEN ISLAND — Health Plus held Project A+ Plus at its Hyatt Street office in Staten Island to award students for excellent academic achievement. More than 242 first to eighth grade students came to the Staten Island location to receive their recognition for getting an overall average of B+ or higher in all their classes this year.

QUEENS — Health Plus held Project A+ Plus in its Queens Boulevard office to recognize first-to eighth-grade students that got an overall average of B+ or higher in all their academic classes this year. More than 180 students came to the Queens location to receive their recognition.

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Don't ask them

Bloomie taps Brooklyn's brightest for Board of Ed panel, then tells them to keep mouths shut

By Patrick Gallahue,
Heather Wilson
and Neil Slosane
The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg this week tapped two Brooklyn education experts for the advisory panel that will replace the Board of Education, and then he promptly told them not to talk to the public.

No sooner had Bloomberg announced the names of Dr. David Chang, the president of Polytechnic University in Downtown Brooklyn, and Maria Regan, a longtime Bay

Ridge resident and 40-year veteran of the city schools system, along with five other appointees to the powerless body, than he swiftly clamped a muzzle on them, forbidding them to talk to anyone but his appointed schools chancellor about education issues.

The yet-to-be-hired schools chancellor will also sit on the panel and there will be five parents of public school children, one appointed by each of the borough presidents.

At the July 18 press conference to announce the selections, and with the new appointees standing behind him, Bloomberg told reporters, "In

terms of the panel members, their job is to give advice to the chancellor, not advice to the press.

"I do not expect to see their names ever in the press answering a question either on the record or off the record," the mayor railed in response to a question about how much authority the panel would have. "It's not going to happen. It has not happened elsewhere in this administration and I would not tolerate it for 30 seconds."

Both Chang and Regan told the mayor's threat so seriously that they declined The Brooklyn Papers' requests for comment on their new appointments.

The 13-member New York City Panel for Educational Policy was formed to replace the Board of Education, but will serve only as an advisory body to the mayor-appointed schools chancellor on educational policy issues. The panel will meet 12 times a year and serve at the discretion of the mayor.

"Each of these individuals possesses exceptional experience and expertise in the particular areas vital to the success of the school system," Bloomberg said in a prepared statement. "Their work will empower the future leaders of our city, the students of the public

school system."

Chang, an internationally recognized scholar of electromagnetics, was named head of Polytech in 1994. He holds a master's and a doctoral degree in applied physics from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from National Cheng-Kung University in Taiwan.

His academic record includes serving for two years as director of the Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Arizona State University and as a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Colorado. Chang also served as the director of NSF/Industry Cooperative Research Center for Microwave and Millimeter-Wave Computer-Aided Design.

Chang's civic commitments include memberships to the Board of Education, the Manhattan District, the NYC 2012 campaign to bring the Olympics to New York, the New York City Partnership, NYC Chamber of Commerce, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, and as director of the Regional

Plan Association. He also served on Bloomberg's transition team.

According to City Hall, Chang's expertise in the field of science will be an invaluable resource to a school system with a deficiency in scientific understanding.

Chang declined to comment, but Polytech spokesman Stuart Dim said on behalf of the university, "The university community is delighted that Dr. Chang will serve on the new educational policy panel. We feel that he would bring a unique dimension of how to better use technology to enhance the public school system."

The resume of Maria Regan, a Bay Ridge resident for more than 30 years, was forwarded to the mayor's office in January by Councilman Marty Golden.

"She has been well entrenched in the community," Dim said in the statement. "In the classroom and in administration and Marty is tremendously enthusiastic about bringing our educational concerns as a neighborhood to the forefront of the education process," said a Golden spokesman. "It's a good day

for Bay Ridge in education." Regan's resume includes time spent as a classroom teacher at PS 9 in Prospect Heights and as a reading coordinator and classroom teacher at PS 169 in Sunset Park. She was promoted from assistant principal of Marine Park's PS 222 to principal, and recently to review supervisor for the panel to focus on the importance of classroom curriculum.

Regan earned a master's degree in clemency education from Richmond College on Staten Island and a bachelor's in business management from St. John's University.

Bloomberg has yet to announce his pick for chancellor, but the names that have been floated for the position of late are Barbara Byrd-Bennett, the former superintendent of low performing schools under former schools chancellor Rudy Crew, and Stanley Breznoff, the president of the Mount Sinai Medical Center in Borough Park and a former deputy mayor under Ed Koch.

Asked why the appointees could not comment on their new positions, Bloomberg spokesman Jordan Barrowitz said, "The mayor wants the

members of the education policy committee to voice their concerns and their advice directly to the chancellor to avoid the back biting and behavior that unfortunately characterized the last board, and a lot of the problems centered around members of the board not communicating directly with each other."

Borough President Marty Markowitz has not made an announcement yet regarding his chosen appointment, though a Borough Hall spokeswoman said that announcement was expected "soon."

Chang and Regan will serve with Philip Berry, the vice president of Colgate-Palmolive; Dr. Ramona Hernandez, the director of the City University of New York's Dominican Studies Institute; Dr. Souza Kappner, the president of the Bank Street College of Education; Susana Torrella Level, the director emerita of El Museo del Barrio and part of the advisory faculty of the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College; and Richard Menschel, the senior director of Goldman Sachs and longtime activist in the area of public health.



How to help an overweight teen

Q: "My 13-year-old daughter skips breakfast, doesn't eat well at school, then eats from the time she comes home until bedtime. She likes high-fat/high-sugar foods and won't exercise except for a weekly dance class. She doesn't want my help with a sensible eating and exercise plan. It's hard to find clothes that fit as more weight creeps on."

—A mother.
At: Where to turn? First, to your daughter. The four-letter word to keep in mind is love, not diet. "Whatever you do, don't harp on her weight or make

your love appear to be based on her physical condition," says reader Les Ferguson. Listen without lecturing, tell your child you love her — and leave your comments at that, he says.

"The more you say to her, the worse she feels, and the cycle continues," says Ferguson, who faced weight issues as a child.

Nutrition expert Elyse Satter, author of "Secrets of Feeding a Healthy Family" (Kelsey Press, 1999), agrees: "Put the emphasis on nurturing, not trying to slim the child down." About 25 percent of all U.S. school-age kids are over-

Parent-to-Parent

weight, and the numbers are climbing. "Childhood obesity is so do the health risks: U.S. hospital costs for diseases related to childhood obesity have tripled in the past 20 years, the American Academy of Pediatrics reports.

Why are more kids fat? Erratic eating habits such as skipping breakfast, too much TV, minimal exercise and endless novelty foods get much of the blame.

Another part of the problem shouldn't be overlooked, Satter says: Are the needs of our nation's kids being met — or ignored?

"Childhood obesity is a barometer for something, but not just too much fast food," says Satter, a dietitian. "Measuring weight for height doesn't tell the whole story."

When a teen-ager skips breakfast, she's likely to graze until bedtime, she is actually more likely to gain weight, not lose.

"She has a better chance of slimming down, Satter says. "If the family has appealing, regular meals that don't limit the child to low-fat, low-sugar foods. What she calls 'the grab-food trick' won't feed a child."

"If the parents not only accept the girl for who she is, but also look at how her eating pattern got started and how their own diet and exercise habits might be adding to the problem."

For example, did the girl begin this unhealthy pattern to lose weight? "Going without breakfast and then overeating it tends to cause a person to eat more and be heavier. Without a morning meal, the body's metabolism — the conversion of food to energy — doesn't get a strong jumpstart for the day."

"I'm 35, and I could have been that girl when I was 13," says a reader. "You can't force a teenager to do things. Look for ways to help her learn what changes to make. The whole family has to be involved, integrating meals and exercise into her lifestyle without making it a big deal."

Eileen Behan, dietitian and author of "Fit Kids" (Pocket Books, 2001), agrees: "Make it a health issue, not a weight issue."

Stop nagging and talk straight to your child about her health, suggests Behan. Tell her you're concerned about her choices, but don't make her self-conscious by singling her out or making comments about her appearance. Assess her own choices of eating and exercise routines.

"Mom doesn't want to be a policeman at this age," she says. "Mom can only control — the food that comes into the house and organized mealtimes."

Many pediatricians stress a prevention of weight gain in heavy kids, instead of putting an overweight child on a diet. "Don't check her weight and focus on the scale," Behan says.

The better focus is on nutrition and daily exercise. "It's difficult for parents to day because food businesses have identified children as a huge market," Behan says. "Kids are eating too much, but you can't point the finger at the child. This is a parenting issue."

Next week: Tips from parents and advice from nutritionists about how to help your child make healthier choices. If you have tips or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at p2p@at.net.

STALKER WATCH...

Continued from page 1

It was the second time McDonald found herself in police hands for menacing children, parents and caretakers in just under two weeks. McDonald was first detained on July 4, outside the United Artists multiplex movie theater at 108 Court St. near State Street.

That day, McDonald had allegedly harassed a couple who were with her, the woman said. "And usually I don't mind but this woman was clearly very uncomfortable about bringing our educational concerns as a neighborhood to the forefront of the education process," said a Golden spokesman. "It's a good day

The woman said she ordered McDonald to leave her alone and the apparently deranged suspect complied.

The woman, however, never reported the incident to police thinking it was only a New York encounter with a disturbed homeless person.

"I have a seven-and-a-half-month-old and a lot of people bend down and play with her," the woman said. "And usually I don't mind but this woman was clearly very uncomfortable about bringing our educational concerns as a neighborhood to the forefront of the education process," said a Golden spokesman. "It's a good day

One month later, on July 16, at around 2 p.m., she had yet another crossing with McDonald outside D'Agostini's Supermarket at 156 Henry St., about a block and a half from the first incident.

The interaction was very similar to the first, with the mother repelling McDonald by pushing her away.

Later that same day, McDonald would be arrested.

Reports of McDonald's activities would get even more bizarre, with additional allegations from nannies that she attempted to buy babies from their caretakers.

The mother harassed at the book and grocery stores was approached by detectives at Pierpoint Playgroup on July 17 and asked if she had ever encountered McDonald. After giving her account, she agreed to be deposed by the district attorney's office before McDonald's July 19 arraignment.

The DA's office has also received testimony from two other women, bringing charges against McDonald for four separate incidents.

The mother who spoke to The Papers said she first believed McDonald's apparent mental condition warrants serious therapy rather than criminal detention.

One man, however, who said he encountered McDonald, says police did not take his complaint seriously.

Jeffery Levy, of Cobble Hill, told The Papers he was approached by a woman matching McDonald's description on June 15 while walking with his 21-month-old niece through Downtown Brooklyn.

He said the woman leaned down and got too close to the child and he tried to keep moving.

He said the woman then grabbed the stroller and said, "That's not you're baby. You're not taking her home!"

He pushed her away and yelled at her, temporarily getting the woman, who he believes was McDonald, to back off. The woman, however, followed him. When he was near his home, he realized the woman was talking him and he yelled at her again, deflecting another confrontation.

Levy said he reported the incident to police, but that he was never encouraged to file a formal criminal complaint.

Five days later, he saw the woman again, at a McDonalds fast food restaurant Court Street, near where the first encounter took place.

Levy claims he called the police again but when cops arrived, he said, they briefly questioned the woman but then let her go free after she denied their previous altercation.

"They didn't ask for her name, her ID — nothing," Levy complained.

At Pierpoint Playgroup, where McDonald is believed to have harassed many parents, news of her arrest was met with mixed reactions of relief and concern about the longevity of her presence in the normally quiet neighborhood.

One Heights parent, who asked not to be named, said it was "ridiculous" that she was set free because, "It's clear to anybody that she's mentally ill."

The woman said she, too, had a brief encounter with McDonald on Montague Street, but that when the woman got too close to her 6-month-old son, she circumvented a confrontation by simply warning the woman, "Stay away from my baby."

Karen Epstein, of Fulton Ferry, said she heard of two incidents "through the playground grapevine" and that it made parents more cautious to the dangers facing their children.

Hoping for a stronger police presence near the playground, she said, "Unfortunately, they don't patrol here very often and it's like a world of innocence."

McDonald is due back in court on Aug. 19, when a grand jury will decide whether she will be indicted, according to a DA spokesman. The results of her psychological evaluation are also expected that day.

Police urge parents who may have had contact with McDonald to call (718) 875-6687.

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FALL COLLEGE PREVIEW



Enrolling this fall? Here's a round-up of offerings

Brooklyn College

The premier institution of higher learning in Brooklyn has just gotten better.

The newly expanded, technologically enriched \$54 million Brooklyn College Library opens its doors this fall, providing a distinguished center for research and learning in New York.

The project echoes the existing Georgian architecture of the

building, but underneath the stately structure is a facility hot-wired with the latest fiber-optic network linking students with campuses and Web sites all over the world—40 percent of all seating will have PCs or Internet connections for students' own laptop computers.

The new library joins the Morton and Angela Topfer Library Cafe as a destination for

research and study. The Library Cafe, offering 24/7 computer and Internet service to students, was funded with a \$1.6 million capital grant from the City Council and is supported by a gift from alumnus Morton Topfer, '59, former vice-chairman of Dell Computer and now counselor to the chief executive officer of the company.

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On-Course Advantage, a program that admits second-semester freshmen and first-semester juniors holding associate's degrees who carry at least 15 credits and who have an average of B or higher. On-Course Advantage offers these highly motivated and qualified full-time undergraduates such advantages as expedited registration and guaranteed access to required courses so that their studies can proceed rapidly to conclusion. Full-time students balancing their college careers with work or family obligations will, if eligible, be considered for participation in a five-year or three-year extended track.

This fall marks Brooklyn College's 78th anniversary. With an international reputation for excellence, it offers 125 majors and programs in the humanities, education, the arts, business, the sciences and social sciences, leading to bachelor's and master's degrees and advanced certificates.

Ninety percent of Brooklyn College's faculty members hold the highest degree in their field, including Fulbright and Guggenheim fellows, National Book Award finalists, award-winning scientists and musicians, and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors.

Brooklyn College enrolls 15,000 undergraduate and graduate students who are representative of the diverse population of Brooklyn and New York City.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the college's burgeoning network of exciting internship programs that permit career exploration and provide substantial work experience.

"When I seriously began to look at other schools, I realized how much more Brooklyn College had to offer—and at half the cost," says Sarah Jordan, '04. "My classes have been great, and when I've needed help, someone is always there for me. I feel like I can accomplish so much."

Polytechnic University

Polytechnic University is a coeducational, private university specializing in engineering, computer science, arts and sciences, and management. Founded in 1854 as Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (Brooklyn Poly), it is the second-oldest independent technological university in the United States. Polytechnic

has its centers in Manhattan, Long Island, and Westchester.

The University boasts top-notch research facilities and technology resources for students, including a 13-megabit wireless campus network.

The success of a recent capital campaign has allowed a \$130 million physical expansion, a highlight of which is a new residence hall—the first at MetroTech. New programs, faculty, and research projects are further strengthening the University's leadership position among schools of engineering and technology.

Polytechnic has been building its reputation for academic excellence for nearly 150 years. This excellence results from a synergistic and inseparable mix of high-quality educational programs, faculty and research. Students receive a solid academic foundation, technical training, and the practical problem-solving leadership skills essential for a successful future. The University promotes and encourages communication, teamwork, interaction with industry leaders, information analysis and working within a broad spectrum of academic disciplines.

Polytechnic's professors are internationally recognized teachers, scholars, and researchers—99 percent of whom have Ph.D.s. The undergraduate majors are: Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Construction Management, Electrical Engineering, Technology & Information Management, Liberal Studies, Mathematics, Mechanical/Aerospace Engineering, Physics, Biomedical Sciences (Pre-Med), and Technical & Professional Communication.

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Mercy College

Mercy College will be opening a new campus in Manhattan this fall. The college is leasing 55,000 square feet in the heart of Herald Square, at 66 West 35th St. Mercy offers evening classes for about 700 students in undergraduate and graduate

programs that include Business, Acupuncture, Education, Psychology, Nursing, Human Resources Management, Direct Marketing, Internet Business Systems and English.

The new location—which will include a computer center, library, and student lounge—will allow the college to offer classes in both the evening and online, via its Distance Learning program.

Mercy, which also has campuses in Dobbs Ferry, the Bronx and White Plains, plans to expand its New York City enrollment to 2,000 over the next three years.

Boricua College

Boricua College, with two locations in the Williamsburg area, offers the following Bachelor Degree programs: Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Human

Services, and Childhood Education. Master Degrees are offered in Human Services and Latin and Caribbean Studies.

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who prefer to study on their own, Kaplan offers books and software to help students reach their higher education goals. Secondary school students preparing for entrance exams to private and specialty high schools are served by Kaplan's courses for the SSAT, ISEE and the New York Specialized High School Exam in NYC.

In addition to these study options, Kaplan centers and website (www.kaptest.com) routinely offer free admissions advice, testing seminars and practice tests to help students to achieve their educational goals. At these free events, students receive admission & exam information, test-taking strategies, and practice materials, all components of Kaplan's most popular programs.

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On the road with those 'Cloneheads'

JOE DeNATALI had on his official Cyclones uniform — the same kind that players wear — his fitted Cyclones cap and, for good measure, a Brooklyn Cyclones whistle around his neck to blow whenever his fellow fans need encouragement.

But DeNatali, a Cyclones season ticket holder, wasn't within the friendly confines of Coney Island's KeySpan Park; he was two hours north, at a Cyclones away game against the Hudson Valley Renegades.

Not that you could tell. After all, at some points in the game, you could hear more "Let's Go, Cyclones" chants than the sound of people root, root, rooting for the home team. Before the game, Cyclones manager Howard Johnson even got a much heavier round of applause than Renegades skipper Dave Howard.

Call them the Cloneheads. Like a baseball version of the Grateful Dead's notoriously mobile fan base, more and more Cyclones fans — frustrated by sellouts at home and motivated to support Brooklyn's first professional baseball team since the Dodgers pulled out in 1957 — are hitting the road whenever the Cyclones do.

Ed Shakespeare was the first to notice the Clonehead phenomenon while working on his book "When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn: The Inaugural Season of the New York-Penn League Cyclones" (whose release is the most highly anticipated fall event — with the possible exception of the World Series).

At first, his interest was purely academic. But Shakespeare's still traveling with the ballclub (he says he's "working on an epilogue," but we all know, once a Clonehead, always a Clonehead).

"These people are everywhere," said Shakespeare, who had a distant relative who wrote a few plays. "They love this game."

So get out your field guides, sportsfans, for a primer on the modern Clonehead.

Thanks to the Interstate highway system, the range of the Clonehead takes him far beyond mere road games against the Staten Island Yankees. True, it's become common knowledge — and a source of great Cyclone pride — that there are more Brooklyn fans than Yankee fans at the Ballpark at St. George when the Cyclones are in town.

But the Cloneheads are showing up much further afield than just across the Narrows. A healthy throng were at last week's Renegades game — played in Dutchess County Stadium, at least two hours up the road from Brooklyn — and just as many made it out to Augusta, New Jersey — two hours due west — to watch the Clones take on the Cardinals.

THERE WERE even noticeable packs of Cyclones fans at a Vermont Expos game in Burlington earlier this season (although some of them did appear to be former Expos fans, converted when the home team continued its typically inept fielding).

Looking at the list of New York-Penn League teams, sometimes it looks as though the league was founded solely to give New Yorkers nice drives in the country. Fans who like to travel can take the back roads to Williamsport (in scenic western Pennsylvania), Auburn and Oneonta (in the beautiful Finger Lakes region), Batavia (so close to Niagara Falls) and Lowell (a reviving mill town in Massachusetts).

"For me, the best part is sitting down with the map and planning the trip," said Les Chamin, a Cyclones partial-season ticket holder who has been to several road games.

"On the road, you can really see what the minor leagues are all about. In some of these places, you can see why minor league baseball is called 'the farm system.' It's great to see how other people live out there."

For one Grateful Dead-loving Cyclones fan, the road-tripping parallels make sense.

"Dead fans traveled with the band because no two shows were ever the same," said David Shenk, the Brooklyn-based co-author of "Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads," an indispensable (if you're into this kind of thing) compendium of Deadhead lore.

"The same thing is true about baseball. In sports, there are endless permutations of things that can happen, so to truly appreciate the beauty of a well-run Renegades-Johnson-to-Harper double-play or to really feel the quiet power of John Toner's defense in the outfield, you have to be there every day. Road-tripping is about getting that deeper understanding."

Perhaps it could even explain why the Cyclones road record (9-9) is better than their home record (7-8). Don't think the players haven't noticed.

"It really is awesome," said infielder Brett Harper. "I've never heard of fans following a short-season Class-A team on the road. It just shows how committed these Brooklyn fans are to this team."

Season ticket holder Cyd Datsman and her husband, Alec, were on that Vermont trip, and one of both of them have seen the Cyclones in every New York-Penn League stadium.

"You really want to support the players because they're the nicest bunch of guys you'd ever want to meet," Datsman said before last week's Hudson Valley game.

Such sweetness does not always carry over to the boosters.

DeNatali is every home fan's nightmare.

LOUIS PASSIONATE, Brooklyn-accented derision of energy, DeNatali takes almost as much delight in making the local fans uncomfortable as he does in rooting for his beloved Cyclones.

"Ya gotta piss dese people off," DeNatali, who's from Sheephead Bay, said at the Hudson Valley game. "Look at dese fans! They need the constant to tell them when to cheer. I'll bet there's not a single Renegades fan at a Cyclones game, but here we are."

And then he started screaming "Let's go, Cyclones!" as loud as he could, while a few Renegades fans covered their ears.

When Renegades fans started leaving in the eighth inning of a 4-3 nail-biter, DeNatali pounced again. "These fans stink! I drove two hours to get here and I'm staying to the end!"

Nearby, Cyclones fan Richie Cabassa admitted that traveling with the team "may be a sickness," but it was an illness that he just couldn't shake.

"It's in the blood," he said. "We do it for the love of the game and the love of the team."

Ever-philosophical Cyclones outfielder John Toner thought there was something more to it (he always does). "Don't forget the love of Brooklyn that these people have," Toner said. "People who live in Brooklyn don't define themselves as being from New York. They say they're from 'Brooklyn.' And that hasn't changed from the days when the Dodgers were here. Fans felt close to those players because they lived in the same neighborhoods as them. The Cyclones are Brooklyn's team like the Dodgers were."

Gersh Kuntzman is also a columnist for *The New York Post* and *Newsweek.com*. His web site is www.gkweb.net.

By Gersh Kuntzman
for *The Brooklyn Papers*

How good are Brooklyn fans? So good, according to the one and only Duke Snider, that they'll make mental mistakes in a beloved player's favor.

"Just now, I ran into a guy who said, 'Duke, I remember seeing you go 5-for-5.' Well, I never went 5-for-5. Obviously, we've all become better in their minds."

In Snider's case, that's not easy. The seven-time all-star, who hit 407 career homers and seemed to always be in the top

10 in hitting in the National League, received a hero's welcome at KeySpan Park on Wednesday night.

Snider was the star attraction on a night that featured other famed Dodgers Al Giofriddo (with his "1947... The Catch"), Tommy Holmes (who struck out only nine times the year he won the batting title), and pitchers Johnny Podres and Ralph Branca.

While many Cyclones — who's parents were kids when Snider ended his career with the 1963 Mets — could be forgiven for not knowing all the details of his illustrious career, outfielder



John Toner was visibly moved.

"For any baseball fan, this is like seeing Mantle or DiMaggio," said Toner, who kept his distance. "I wouldn't even know what to say to a guy like that. It's like meeting [Pearl Jam lead singer] Eddie Vedder. What

would I say to Eddie Vedder?"

How hard can it be? He never went 5-for-5 either.

Museum muses
Blake Whealy was impressed by the but Bobby Thompson used to hit the "Shot Heard 'Round the World." Bobby Malek was drawn to the original cornerstone of Ebbets Field.

Corey Ragsdale had a laugh over an old flat-faced baseball bat that players once used for bunting.

These three Cyclone players, plus Joe Jannetti and Jay Caliguri, took advantage of a rare morning off to check out

the American Museum of Natural History's popular "Baseball As America" exhibit earlier this week.

The exhibit, organized by the Baseball Hall of Fame, is meant to illustrate how deeply our beloved game is ingrained into our culture and society. For ballplayers at the lowest level of the minor leagues, that can be a little overwhelming.

"You could see that it was powerful from their reactions to some of the memorabilia there," said Cyclones spokesman Dave Campanaro, who accompanied his players.

"They were really impressed by things like Bobby Thompson's hat and the Ebbets Field cornerstone."

In addition to placing themselves in baseball's long historical context and playing catch with a few kids, the five Cyclones got to sample hot dogs from several major league parks, another popular part of the museum's exhibit.

If he had known there would be hot dogs, pitcher (and devoted frankophyte) Kevin Deaton would have certainly tagged along.

Let's Play Two
Last week's rainout against the Hudson Valley Renegades will be made up as a rare day-night doubleheader on Friday, Aug. 16.

The makeup game will be played at noon and the regularly scheduled contest will be at 7 pm.

Fans will need separate tickets for both games (real doubleheaders have gone the way of the 10-cent subway token).

What about Dave?
Cyclones manager Howard Johnson — and two, as-yet-unnamed players — will be signing copies of the team's self-published coffee-table book, "Return to Glory," on Saturday, July 27, at KeySpan Park from noon to 1:30 pm.

The book, actually written by Cyclones media relations manager Dave Campanaro, is ostensibly about the birth of the Cyclones last year, but also puts the team in the context of more than 100 years of baseball in Brooklyn.

It is that despite good reviews, the book isn't selling too well at the price of \$15.

No wonder the team is calling out the big gun — Halo — for a high-profile boost.

Comings & goings
The Cyclones are being reintroduced to the fly this season.

Here are the latest player movements: Popular infielders Andres Rodriguez and Edgar Rodriguez were both sent up to the Mets Class-A affiliate in Columbia, South Carolina.

Tyler Beutler, a Cyclone from last season who is still nursing a sore arm, was sent down to Kingsport in the rookie league for more playing time.

Catcher Zach Clements and pitcher Robert Paulk were also sent down.

New Cyclones include Wisconsin Joe Hietpas (down from Columbia) and pitchers Jayson Weir (up from Kingsport) and Ken Chenard (a rehab assignment from the A squad in Port St. Lucie).

Two games washed out

By Gersh Kuntzman
for *The Brooklyn Papers*

Crosscutters 1
Cyclones 0

Thu., July 18 at Williamsport

Imagine that, the Cyclones lost a pitchers' duel. It never would have happened LAST year!

Crosscutter's starter Roberto Novoa went a strong 6 2/3 innings, giving up only two hits and striking out six while Brooklyn's rehabbing pitcher Neal Musser gave up only one hit over his five frames.

But the first-place Cutters got to reliever Chad Brown for one messy, stinkin' run.

Cyclones
Renegades

Fri., July 19, at Brooklyn

Rained-out.

Renegades 4
Cyclones 3

Sat., July 20, at Hudson Valley

Whatever happened to timely hitting? For want of just one key hit, the Cyclones lost another close one. Usually brilliant starting pitcher Yunior Cabrera was touched for three runs in just three innings, but the story was timely hitting, as the Renegades got key, two-out RBI hits in the second and fifth innings.

Meanwhile, the Cyclones stranded runners all night, including two in the sixth and a man on third with one out in the seventh and eighth.

Cyclones 13
Renegades 4

Sun., July 21, at Brooklyn

Finally, an offensive explosion. The Cyclones rapped out

16 hits (a season high) to improve to 16-16. Alhaji Turay was the hitting star of the game, going 4-for-5 with a home run and two RBI, and five team-mates also had multi-hit games.

Heads-up baserunning by Jonathan Slack led to a run when he walked home from third after noticing that no one was covering home.

A two-run triple by DH Bobby Malek made the score 6-2 after four and the Clones added five more in the seventh, thanks to Malek's third RBI and a two-run double by Blake Whealy. Turay also hit a two-run homer.

Cardinals 9
Cyclones 2

Mon., July 22, at Brooklyn

Unable to maintain their momentum, the same Cyclones lineup that scored 13 runs the night before could only manage two.

Starter Miguel Pinango was roughed up for four runs in three innings. Blake Whealy provided what offense there was for Brooklyn, driving in a run in the second inning with a single, and another in the fourth, with a double.

Cyclones
Cardinals

Tues., July 23, at New Jersey

Rained-out.

Cyclones 5
Yankees 0

Wed., July 24, at Brooklyn

Four Cyclones pitchers combined to shut down the Staten Island Yankees.

Starter Kevin Deaton was brilliant, yielding just one hit in his five innings of work while striking out six — giving him the league lead with 47.



Cyclones pitcher Tanner Osberg fires a strike Sunday.

The Brooklyn Papers / Gary Thomas

WHO'S A BUM!

The Paper's Pick for Cyclones Player of the Week



Outfielder Alhaji Turay is batting .381 this season.

Finally! Some new blood.

After two weeks of former Cyclones taking home the coveted "Who's A Bum?" award (Joe Jannetti last week, and John Toner the week prior), this week's title is proudly presented to outfielder Alhaji Turay.

Turay went 8-for-18 over his last three, smacking half of his hits during a 4-for-5 showing on Sunday night, when he hit a home run and drove in two.

Turay was manager Howard Johnson's pick for player to watch on Opening Day.

Catcher Zach Clements and pitcher Robert Paulk were also sent down.

New Cyclones include Wisconsin Joe Hietpas (down from Columbia) and pitchers Jayson Weir (up from Kingsport) and Ken Chenard (a rehab assignment from the A squad in Port St. Lucie).

DISNEY...

Continued from page 1

turned down.

Bullard, who reportedly owns seven acres of undeveloped land on either side of KeySpan Park, which was built for the Cyclones, said he was looking for a minor league baseball team and opened last year, said this week that he has not been approached by Disney.

"I believe that was their primary interest here," Zigan said, referring to Bullard's land. "Coney Island certainly has lots of room for new businesses and, historically, Coney Island was much larger than it is now. It is a very nice place right now."

Several commercial and recreational developments in the area have given Coney Island a boost in the past few years, and more are being planned for the future, according to Borough President Marty Markowitz.

His spokesman, Andrew Ross, pointed to the 150,000-square-foot Croquet Avenue Home Depot, built in 2000, and KeySpan Park, the 7,500-seat stadium at Surf Avenue and 17th Street, which sold out every home game this season, as well as the expansion of the New York Aquarium, as examples.

But according to Assemblywoman Adelle Colton, whose district includes all of Coney Island, the stadium will never bring as many jobs as would the Walt Disney Co.

"I am always interested in economic development at Coney Island that will bring jobs for the residents," Colton said. "I don't think there is enough land on the scale of creating a Disney World or Disney Land, something smaller and more delicious would be lovely. If a couple of people have jobs, then they would let me know they were glad about that. The Cyclones don't affect our community except for adding to the traffic."

"I represent people, and I represent poor people that need work and in this economic climate we are looking everywhere for jobs," said Colton. "So if Disney wants to come, I will be delighted to work with them."

Ross said, rumor or not, Markowitz was simply looking for any opportunities to help nourish the growing attractiveness of Coney Island.

"The borough president would love to talk to Disney and any other corporation about development possibilities in Coney Island," Ross said. "There is a need to redevelop Coney Island into a major entertainment and recreation center."

Bloomberg said he would be interested in talking to Disney about Coney Island, as long as they didn't have plans on the scale of a Disney World for the area.

But like Zigan, Ross said Coney Island needs a comprehensive development plan before the area settles into any deals.

"And that plan should incorporate a new indoor arena, which obviously would be a great way to attract an NBA team to Brooklyn," Ross said, reiterating an idea voiced by Markowitz shortly after taking office in January, that while it was great to have the Cyclones, Brooklyn deserved a major league team and that the most realistic league to make that happen in our multi-team city would be the National Basketball Association.

"The borough president hopes that the city and state will work together with his office to put together a comprehensive redevelopment plan [for Coney Island] in the same way Times Square was so successfully redeveloped," Ross added.

Coney Island's fame as one of America's most celebrated beach resorts during the first half of the 20th century, was succeeded by a headfirst decline in tourism, cleanliness and safety. So much like Times Square — which was rejuvenated soon after Disney rehabilitated and reopened the landmark New Amsterdam Theatre in 1928 — Coney Island's plans for revitalization could use a little help from the Walt Disney pocketbook, Zigan said.

Judi Orlando, the executive director of the Astoria Development Corporation — a not-for-profit community based organization dedicated to providing affordable housing, commercial revitalization and improved quality of life in the Coney Island community — said her 27 years as a resident have brought her to see Coney Island through many developmental ups and downs.

Astella was founded in 1975 by Coney Island residents who were concerned about the deterioration of their community.

"In the good old days, this place brought many more people," she said, noting she had heard rumors floating around regarding interest in the area by Disney.

"I have seen big improvements in the area and the stadium has brought in a lot of people."

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Double chair from Ebbets Field, 1913-1957

Fans enjoying old Dodger photos.

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Mercury rising in City Tech labs

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

Two floors of Downtown Brooklyn's New York City College of Technology were evacuated recently after mercury was discovered in classrooms, a physics lab and offices.

Students who might wish to attribute lackluster grades to symptoms of mercury poisoning — such as nervousness, trembling and dementia — may have to look for another excuse, however, as university and health officials are claiming the levels were below what are commonly regarded as hazardous.

In late June, the college at 300 Jay St. detected elevated levels of mercury on the seventh and eighth floors of Namm Hall. The floors were closed off after routine tests found mercury on the two floors, which house classrooms, faculty offices and a physics laboratory.

Mercury can be absorbed in to porous surfaces, including sheet rock, tile and even concrete.

While the levels, found to be 23 micrograms per cubic meter, were two to four times less than what the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), consider dangerous, the shutdown was taken as a precautionary measure.

"The fact that CUNY wants to remediate it — that's fine," said Claudia Hutton, a spokeswoman for the state Dormitory Authority, the agency that owns the building. "You don't have to wait for something to get to a dangerous level before

you do something about it."

Pregnant women and children are most vulnerable to the highly toxic metallic element that is liquid at room temperature. Prolonged exposure to mercury can have potentially fatal effects as well as causing mood and personality changes, respiratory problems,

trembling and nerve damage.

The Dormitory Authority owns the building while CUNY acts as a lessee of the property, managing and maintaining Namm Hall.

Hutton said the most immediate presumption is that since it is a physics lab, mercury may have been used in some

of the experiments.

"You use mercury for experiments, these things happen," she said. "But that doesn't mean you want students walking into a room where the porous surfaces may have absorbed some of the mercury."

The Dormitory Authority has hired an environmental

consultant, Professional Service Industries Inc., and a contractor, Impact Environmental — with oversight from the city Department of Health — to vacuum particles from the air and any particles that may be embedded in porous exteriors. Exactly when the labs may be open again is still uncertain.

"They will do a very thorough cleaning and take new readings," Hutton said. "What happens after that depends on what the readings show."

Calls to City Tech's public affairs department were referred to the college's vice president, Dixie Norris, who could not be reached press time.

Just call it city 'College of Technology'

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

New York City Technical College has shifted a few words, changed a couple of letters and reintroduced itself to the public as the New York City College of Technology.

Distancing itself from its roots as a community college, the 120-year-old institution of higher education has recently sought to raise its prominence and stature.

"While the term 'technical college' had broader implications in times past, in today's educational marketplace technical colleges are generally two-year schools offering vocational programs," Fred Beaufort, the college's president, said in a prepared statement.

"New York City College of Technology," he said, "is positioning itself to further enhance its image, attract top-notch students and respond to the current and future technological needs of public- and private-sector employers."

Among the college's planned initiatives is to broad-

en the array of majors to include Architectural Technology and Applied Mathematics.

The college was founded in 1946 as the New York State Institute of Applied Sciences and was renamed New York City Community College in 1956, becoming the city's first two-year college.

In 1971 it incorporated the 120-year-old, privately-endowed Voorhees Technical Institute into its program, and nine years later was included in the City University of New York (CUNY) system, after which it changed its name once again to New York City Technical College.

It was not until 1983 that it was allowed to grant its first baccalaureate degree, in hotel and restaurant management.

The college currently boasts 11,000 degree students studying 50 different technology-related baccalaureate, associate and specialized certificate programs. Another 10,000 students are enrolled each year in various adult education and workforce development programs.

On July 12, Gov. George Pataki signed legislation, sponsored in the state Senate by



Artist's rendering of the New York City College of Technology expansion. BP / Fia

Sen. Malcolm L. Bevilacqua, and in the Assembly by Roger Green (D-Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Crown Heights). Maltese was joined by Assemblyman Joe Lentol, representing Fort Greene, Greenpoint and Williamsburg, and Assemblywoman Joan Millman, of Brooklyn Heights, Bay Ridge, Boerum Hill, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill, at Pataki's Midtown Manhattan Office last week to celebrate the bill's passage.

"New York City College of Technology has been an outstanding institution, but it has grown, it has improved, it has

upgraded," Pataki said. "It has created an important academic niche for itself in New York State as the City University of New York's college of technology."

Its nickname, City Tech, however, will not have to change to accommodate the institution's shift in title.

C Gardens P.O.'d with Post Office

By Patrick Gallaueh
The Brooklyn Papers

While a new postal substation in Carroll Gardens may be only a few weeks from being announced, the call for a permanent facility has been renewed by Assemblywoman Joan Millman.

A U.S. Postal Service spokesman said bids are being received for a new substation in Carroll Gardens, after a six-month absence. Meanwhile, Millman recently sent a letter to U.S. Postmaster General John Potter to amplify the community's call for a permanent facility.

Demonstrable of the problem, if the letter had weighed more than 64 ounces, or if she had needed a stamp, Millman would have had to trek to Red Hook across the perilous Hamilton Avenue, or roll the dice on an inconsistent mobile post office.

The U.S. Post Office substation located at the Court Street Pharmacy was forced to close down due to no small part to the financial limitations that are inherent in running a post office substation. Millman wrote in her letter, dated June 24, 2002, "Today, the residents and businesses of Carroll Gardens are forced to rely on a mobile post office truck that has limited hours and services."

"Without permanent service, the residents of Carroll Gardens are forced to travel to the Brooklyn Heights or Red Hook post offices. Neither of these alternatives are acceptable."

The Red Hook facility is located at 615 Clinton St. between Centre and Bush streets near the Red Hook Houses apartment complex. The Brooklyn Heights facility is the borough's General Post Office, at 271 Cadman Plaza East at Johnson Tech Place, near Brooklyn Supreme Court.

Last January, a postal contract station located inside the Carroll Court Pharmacy, at 388 Court St. was taken out of service by the pharmacy's owner, Gerard Chirico, who said it was difficult to keep employees who were willing to handle the mail because postal customers did not treat them well.

Since January, the Postal Service has in theory provided a mobile post office on Court Street, between First Place and Carroll Street, Monday through Friday, 10:15 am to 4 pm, although its presence, according to residents, has been inconsistent. While Millman and some

activists all expressed gratitude for the truck, the assemblywoman said that it has not been as successful as a permanent post office.

"Sometimes they can't park where it was before, so it's in a different location; they are entitled to lunch so they close for an hour in the middle of the day," Millman told The Brooklyn Papers. "It's better than nothing, but I think that Carroll Gardens deserves to have a permanent post office."

Millman said that a 2000 Census data indicated that Carroll Gardens had grown to about 30,000 residents, 15 percent of which are senior citizens, making the long journey to the Red Hook or Brooklyn Heights post offices particularly lamentable.

A brand new post office, however, may not be forthcoming, according to Pat Bellantoni, a spokesman for the Brooklyn Post Office, as there are currently no new post offices being constructed and the agency is in the midst of a capital spending freeze.

"What we're doing is we have solicited the area for a new contract station and that is in progress now," Bellantoni said. "And we hope to have a successful bidder in four weeks."

While he would not specify who has bid or how many bidders have responded, Bellantoni said, "We're required to have a minimum of three bidders bid, and we've met the requirement."

Millman's office, however, said that a new substation would only be an interim solution in the larger quest for a permanent facility. In the past several years the substations have drifted through three different locations, with a bakery and a candy store preceding the pharmacy, and lasted for a period ranging from a few months to several years.

Millman said she is still waiting on a reply from the postmaster general and that the mobilization of a larger group of elected officials on the issue, including federal, city and state leaders, is all pending response.

In the past, Rep. Ed Towns had worked on the matter, although his efforts had only earned the area a substation. Due to redistricting, Carroll Gardens' new congressional representatives will be Rep. Nydia Velázquez and Rep. Maxine Waters, should they both gain re-election this November.

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Yassky's waterfront bill passes

By Patrick Galluane
The Brooklyn Papers

The City Council unanimously passed a bill this month, drafted by Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky, that will require the city to provide a comprehensive survey of its stock of waterfront property.

When first introducing his Waterfront Inventory Bill, Yassky, who chairs the select committee on waterfronts, cited the "Top 10 waterfront wastes," a list of the most egregiously wasted properties citywide — such as the Harlem River Salt Storage Lot in Manhattan, the Hunts Point Jail Barge in the Bronx and the old WNYC radio transmitter in Greenpoint — to demonstrate the need for such a survey.

Among the Top 10, was the Erie Basin Auto Pond at 700 Columbia St. in Red Hook. "I want to move some of those facilities off the waterfront," Yassky said. "We're using some of the most valuable property in the city for the least important uses. Rather



David Yassky

than housing people we're storing towed cars for." The survey will include the location, size, owner and renter of waterfront properties — collected from the myriad city agencies that are in possession of shoreline land. At present, there is no consolidated record of information on the city's 532 miles of waterfront property.

While the land of the Erie Basin Auto Pond is actually privately owned, and leased by the city, Yassky said city-used property would also be included in the survey. The Columbia Street Pier,

renovated in 1985, is owned by Eric Basin Marine Associates, a partnership between the Hughes Brothers barge company and Kettner Transportation, with the city leasing about 20 acres for the tow pond.

Bob Hughes, who manages the property, estimated there was still about 10 years left on the pier's lease, signed in 1994, but that was open to new ideas. "Obviously, the city has a lease with us that doesn't permit the use to change," Hughes said. "But we'd be happy to listen to anything the city would like to propose to us. Any clean use."

The property includes a promenade and a fishing pier leading up to the front gates of the town pound, and Hughes said the primary function of the peninsula is to dock boats. The low pound has been a convenient use for the company because the rent paid helps provide resources to allow them to operate the docks.

At present, Hughes said there are 200 vessels that dock along the pier, ranging in function from tugboats to salvage ships. Some waterfront activists,

such as Carter Craft, program director of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, applauded the bill but warned that maritime uses and employment along the waterfront should also be protected.

Urging for a mix of industry, recreational development and transportation, Craft said, "If we go from a 20th-century waterfront of brownfields and chainlink fences to a 21st-century development of continuous greenspace we're going to suffocate the maritime industries that exist there."

Ultimately, while Yassky may have other ideas for the lot, such as housing and open space, the responsibility of demanding alternatives will probably fall to the community, as was the case with Brooklyn Bridge Park — a 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development planned for the waterfront between the Manhattan Bridge and Atlantic Avenue, which will displace the community's 15-year lobbying.

"This is going to give community groups a tool they can use to develop their own ideas and plans, and bring to the city

proposals that the city can take up and run with," Yassky said. "I think a lot of the creative energy on the waterfront has come from the community."

John McGretick, a member of the Red Hook Civic Association, has long been an advocate of developing more residential opportunities in the neighborhood.

While he had only kind words for Hughes, he said, "A combination of commercial public access, if you will, at particular location ... clearly this is something that could and should be explored." The movement for "reclaiming the waterfront" comes at an opportune time, with both Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki lined up behind waterfront initiatives such as the Brooklyn Bridge Park and the redevelopment of the Gowanus Canal. Just last month, Pataki allocated \$170,000 towards the transmitter in Greenpoint to explore the option of creating a park.

"I think it has finally sunk in on the policymakers and the regulators alike that the waterfront is a tremendously under-used asset," Yassky said.

Furthermore, with homes on Third Avenue, and a Department of Sanitation garage already located on Second Avenue, residents expressed more fondness for an alternative route, vocalized by CATS member Danny Reilly, which did not encroach on any residential streets.

While 12th Street, which is adjacent to the site, runs east towards Third Avenue from Second Avenue, it proceeds in the opposite direction west of Second Avenue. Therefore, it was suggested that trucks exit west on 12th Street towards Hamilton Avenue to circumvent any homes and keep all departing traffic within the industrial zone.

"We're here to present and we're here to listen to community concerns and questions," said Michele Demilly, a Forest City Ratner spokeswoman. "We're going to go back and evaluate what we heard tonight and be responsive."

There were also calls for the groundwater near Second Avenue and nearest the canal to be monitored, and for the community to be informed about the groundwater near Second Avenue and nearest the canal to be monitored, and for the community to be informed about the groundwater near Second Avenue and nearest the canal to be monitored.

In the past few years ideas have passed before the community with mixed results, among them, a movie theater and megamall — to be developed by Millennium Partners and Insitu — and a massive 300,000-square-foot Ikea last year. Ikea pulled out after community groups threatened lawsuits to force an environmental assessment addressing traffic concerns. The Millennium-Insitu partnership was forced out of the site when a judge ruled that Forest City Ratner had been unfairly cut out of negotiations to develop the site.

Now, with Forest City Ratner committed to the cleanup, Lowe's seems fated to take its home in Gowanus. Lindsay McGrady, the director of site development for Lowe's, presented plans to develop a 157,000-square-foot store designed by Urbirum-Rosenbloom Architects.

The back of the brick and pre-cast stone would face Second Avenue, while the main entrance would face a 400-space parking lot abutting the canal. Plans include a promenade along the Gowanus Canal and a greening of the surrounding block with trees. The loading dock would be located on 10th Street, but shielded from view by a ramp gate and 12-foot-high brick wall.

The traffic issue, however, is sure to linger. While a full environmental analysis has not been prepared, figures from a past development proposal have gone into a preliminary traffic analysis. According to McGrady, the numbers indicate that less than 5 percent of the traffic would come down 12th Street and that the peak traffic period would be between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Whether or not that will allay a community that stands to be besieged by traffic once the Gowanus Expressway begins a long-awaited renovation or replacement, is yet to be seen. Thomas held firm that a mere environmental assessment might not be sufficient, and called for a more thorough environmental impact statement. McGrady said it was expected to be open by August 2004.

TOXIC...

Continued from page 1

ment of the Post Office Site, and included representatives of developer Bruce Ratner, the state Department of Health and the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

About 50 residents and activists met in the community room of the St. Mary Star of the Sea church, on Court Street, between Nelson and Laquer streets in Laquer Gardens, to hear details of the cleanup.

From about 1860 to the late 1950s, the site was host to a coal gasification plant with three large containers, approximately 100 feet in diameter, located on the southern portion of the property. Over the next

20 years, a paint manufacturing factory and an asphalt plant would call the parcel home before the Postal Service operated a vehicle maintenance and mail handling facility there after World War II.

The foundations of the gas containers are still in the soil, holding residual contamination from the gas plant.

According to Rater Associates, the environmental consultants hired by Ratner's company, Forest City Ratner, car-tar-saturated soils are present in the ground in varying depths from 2 to 16 feet.

The current cleanup plan, approved by the state Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation, involves

excavating contaminated soil beneath temporary tents and then transporting the excavated soil by truck off-site for treatment. The resulting cracks will then be packed with clean backfill.

The tents will be sealed, drawing air from the exterior of the structure, so that the air within the tent can be treated before it is released into the atmosphere to "minimize dust in the air and minimize vapors," according to Bill Fisher, the project engineer.

The first tents are already up, and the entire process should be complete by the end of August, according to Fisher.

Ashley Thomas, who co-chairs the task force and heads Care About the Slope (CATS), a local civic group, sought to know how the contaminated materials would be contained

on the back of the trucks as the materials were shipped out.

With fears voiced that little more than a bungee cord and tarp would keep the contaminated soil from spilling onto the neighboring streets or blowing in the wind, DEC representative James Van Hoesen said, "It's a much tighter machine than what you see on the gravel trucks," and assured the audience members that there would be no vapors of concern.

Trucks exiting the Gowanus Expressway will take Third Avenue up to Ninth Street, turning west onto Ninth Street, which they will take into the site. Trucks carrying the contaminated soil will then exit on Second Avenue at 11th Street, go south to 12th Street, then east to Third Avenue, which they will take south to the Verazzano-Narrows Bridge.

promise, embracing Markowitz's alternate plan after the City Planning Commission approved the Brooklyn Law plan.

Support for the law school's proposal came largely from students and alumni, which includes political, legal and business power brokers.

Among the celebrated Brooklyn Law alumni to testify on Monday was former Mayor David Dinkins, a member of the class of 1956, who urged for the dormitory's approval, citing the school's progressive history and record.

"Although it is certainly essential to generate community involvement and input into development projects," said Dinkins, "it is also critically important to be able to look at the big picture and evaluate a project's impact objectively, and away from the voices of emotionally charged parties — either for or against."

Among the factors that weighed on the side of Brooklyn Law, is the school's debilitating death of housing facilities for its 1,500 students. Wexler said only 10 percent of the requests for housing can be accommodated.

The scale of the project, however, remained excessive to community groups, and after the project was rejected by a close margin, by Community Board 2, the various neighborhood associations, and Yassky said he successfully sought a concession to bring the height down to 210 feet.

Yassky, however, did not endorse the Markowitz plan because it would have cut off the air and light from 96 Scherhorn St., next door, and would have greatly increased rental costs to students.

While DeBlasio said the Markowitz plan was a more preferable compromise, the 216-foot reduction was "acceptable but just barely acceptable."

"I don't know anyone who thinks it's a bad idea to have some type of [Brooklyn] Law School dormitory on the site," DeBlasio said. "In so many struggles over land use there's an entire rejection of the purpose that is proposed."

"This is a situation where there's a broad acceptance over the use to the community," DeBlasio said, but added that the resistance was due to scale. The project met with unanimous approval in all three phases of its passage through the City Council, including the subcommittee, the Land Use committee and the full Council. The mayor now has five days to veto the application or sign it on.

When the proposal came before the community board last April, Royce Levin, an attorney representing Brooklyn Law, said that should the project pass the city's land use review process, the community groups' last resort, who sought

to keep the high-rise from fronting the large brownstone residential State Street.

"That, too, would have been a compromise, but at least it would have bowed in State Street's favor," Grunberg said.

"The [dorm] would build a 265-foot-high wall, running two-thirds the length of a football field into State — a narrow, tree-lined street of historic brownstones," said Alyssa Lappen, co-chair of the Brooklyn Heights Protection Coalition, before the committee on Monday. "We support Borough President Markowitz's compromise."

The activists' willingness to settle on Markowitz's compromise eventually resulted in raising the bar for concession and a half-dozen community groups shed a collective sigh of disappointment.

"It was far from a victory for the voice of the community," Grunberg said. "It was kind of a bow in our direction and that is what it was. But it was not what we wanted."

The community eventually had meetings with the Zoning & Franchises Land Use subcommittee, it's chair, Tony Avella, and neighboring Councilman DeBlasio, as well as ongoing conferences with Yassky.

The council members attempted to work out a compromise between the divergent interests, and Yassky said he successfully sought a concession to bring the height down to 210 feet.

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TOWER...

Continued from page 1

Brooklyn, a [developing] 24-hour community, these interests are enough to justify rezoning. But not, I believe, the rezoning originally proposed by the law school, because the neighborhoods surrounding the proposed project also have very legitimate concerns.

"This development cannot threaten the character of the surrounding neighborhoods," he said.

"I had hoped that the reduction in height that the law school achieved would bring the building to no higher than 210 feet," Yassky added.

The reduction did nothing to quell the community's displeasure with the plan. Shortly after Wexler announced the school's willingness to bring the building down by 50 feet, Nancy Brown, president of the Brooklyn Heights Association stood outside City Hall's conference room and noted, "The mechanicals will stand so it is really only a 20-foot difference."

Asked if she thought the community groups would sign on to the idea, Brown said, "No. We would have signed on in there," gesturing towards the conference room where ongoing opposition testimony was delivered by neighborhood residents and activists.

Brooklyn Law School's original plans consisted of a 265-foot, 22-story dormitory to house 400 students. The height reduction will diminish the number of available beds to 371, according to Brown. Brown, a law spokeswoman named Ben Bramer. The dormitory was designed by Robert A.M. Stern, and is to be built at the corner of State Street and Boerum Place.

OFFICIAL...

Continued from page 1

beret and the stressed who laid flowers, candles and cards against the wrought iron fence facing the smoldering Lower Manhattan skyline. Due to the attack, the beginning of Phase 2 of the plan was pushed back about four weeks.

"It really is hard to come here without thinking of the World Trade Center," Bramer said. Three bronze plaques by artist Greg Lefevre have been embedded into two locations along the walkway, at Clark Street and at Montague Street, depicting historic waterfront scenes of the city, such as an anchoring of sailing ships from 1776, a steam ship from 1880 and the Manhattan skyline of 1935.

Three more designs will be added to those, one of which will be added at the above-mentioned locations featuring the pre-9/11 view of the skyline.

The other two plaques will be placed at either end of the promenade, porting the Brooklyn Bridge reconstruction of 1877, placed on the north end of the promenade, and a view of the New York Harbor from 1873 placed at the southern edge of the walkway.

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Director Ken Loach's dysfunctional films

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • July 29, 2002



Williamsburg rooftop is hot venue for summer of indie flix

By Emma Span
for The Brooklyn Papers

Independent cinema is thriving on top of Peter's Car Corp., an industrial building covered with graffiti that is now topped with a small movie screen.

As the Rooftop Films manifesto says, "rooftops are inherently cinematic." A visit to one of their Friday night shows, which start around sunset at 265 McKibbin St. in Williamsburg and run through September, should be enough to convince anyone of the truth of that statement. As it turns out, movies and rooftops enhance each other.

Rooftop Films was born in 1997 on the roof of its founder, Mark Elijah Rosenberg, now 27. Rosenberg began the airy screenings because, he says, "I wanted a place to show the films that my friends and I had made, and we didn't like all the bureaucracy and fussiness of even the most down-to-earth festivals." He continues to make films when he can, including several that will be shown at the last screening of the season, on Sept. 13. The first year, the films were shown on the roof of his Manhattan apartment building.

"I got kicked out of my apartment for that," he says, "so it was natural to move to the expansive freedom of Brooklyn."

So Rooftop Films found a new home in eastern Williamsburg, and has grown in popularity every year since, growing into

CINEMA

Rooftop Films are shown Fridays at 9 pm through Sept. 13 at 265 McKibbin St. at Bushwick Avenue in Williamsburg. Admission is \$6. Go to www.rooftopfilms.com or call (877) 786-1912 for more information.

July 26: Bikini Line (films by and about women)

Aug. 2: Come and Get It (Ohio) and "The Late Show" (six and twisted films at midnight)

Aug. 9: Feature: "What is Paper Mache?" (plus shorts)

Aug. 16: Scenes from Texas and/or Pacific Northwest

Aug. 23: Handmade Films (direct animation films)

Aug. 30: Sista 2 Sista (featuring DCTV and Children's Media Project films)

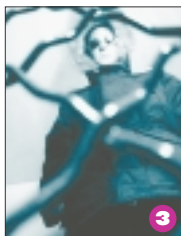
Sept. 6: ImageNation (films from the African Diaspora)

Sept. 13: Rooftop Shots

a non-profit corporation. (The \$6 charge at the door goes to support independent, low-budget filmmaking in New York City.) Over the years the staff has also expanded to make films when he can, including several that will be shown at the last screening of the season, on Sept. 13. The first year, the films were shown on the roof of his Manhattan apartment building.

"I got kicked out of my apartment for that," he says, "so it was natural to move to the expansive freedom of Brooklyn."

So Rooftop Films found a new home in eastern Williamsburg, and has grown in popularity every year since, growing into



berg's estimate, they're on pace to attract even more. They will present more than 100 films of varying lengths over the course of their 2002 season. Still, the enormous roof area makes the crowd seem small; the available folding chairs occupy less than a fourth of the space.

The Rooftop Films program says low budget, and they mean it. The films tend towards the ultra-independent, with the accompanying lack of funding that entails. Some make the "Blair Witch Project" look like a glossy studio film. But that's part of what makes them so appealing — these are personal, uninhibited movies that you almost certainly will never see anywhere else. It's also what makes them so exactly suited to their unusual setting.

The "rooftop" in Rooftop Films is surprisingly unadorned, with graffiti doodles here and there and folding chairs set up in



Sky box: (Top) On July 5, the Brooklyn band Marmalade played prior to the Rooftop Films screening. Films which will be shown on this Williamsburg rooftop this summer include (1) Michael Mittelstaedt's "Smithfield Angler," (2) Todd Rohal's "Hillbilly Robot" and (3) Timothy Greenberg's "La Puppe."

front of the modest screen. Concessions, from rice and beans to Twix bars, are sold from a folding table, as are season passes and — the true sign of an increasingly

See **ROOFTOP** on page **GO 4**

DANCE

New work

Be the first to see three new dance works, commissioned by Celebrate Brooklyn, which have been choreographed and will be performed by David Neumann and Nicholas Leichter-Dance on Aug. 2.

According to Celebrate Brooklyn co-producer Rachel Charnoff, "Each of them had admired each other's work — they both teach at NYU — so they agreed to do a duet."

"They are very physical dancers, two great, handsome, but very different, dancers working on [a] duet," said Charnoff.

"David Neumann had done a piece with Laurie Anderson; he's very collaborative and up and coming. He crosses that boundary between acting and performance." Neumann (pictured) will perform "Appropriate Behaviors" (1997) and "Deep Six" (2002).

"Nick is a very sexy choreographer who works a lot with very contemporary, stylish music," she said. Leichter will perform "Bliss" (2002) and the world premiere of "Never End Part 2."

As choreographers-in-residence, Neumann and Leichter will also host a lecture-demonstration at the Prospect Park Picnic House (enter the park at Fifth Street and Prospect Park West) on July 31 at 7:30 pm to share the techniques used in creating their new works.

The Aug. 2 performance will be at 7:30 pm at the Prospect Park Band Shell (Prospect Park West and Ninth Street). Admission is \$3. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45.

— Lisa J. Curtis



ART

Street fight

Arts organization creates an exhibit in DUMBO born out of one harrowing night

By Lisa J. Curtis
for The Brooklyn Papers

If you're a woman walking down the street in Brooklyn, it's likely you have been or will be on the receiving end of catcalls, men shouting remarks about the way you look. While some of these comments may sound complimentary or possibly one-liners for the amusement of other men standing around in a group, men and women don't take away the same meanings from these interactions.

In fact, most women feel threatened.

That was the case for Jenga Mwendo as she walked through Crown Heights to Bedford-Stuyvesant last July.

The experience was so harrowing for Mwendo that she fired off an angry e-mail to her colleagues at Red Clay Arts, a Clinton Hill non-profit arts organization, with this suggestion: "We could open an exhibit where a man could walk through alone, and hear [catcalls] while the eyes of men leer at [him] from the walks."

At BRIC Studio in February, the "Red Clay Arts In Studio Series: Practicum" unveiled "Cat Calls," a multimedia installation exploring the what, where, when and whys of catcalls — an answer to Mwendo's e-mail. The event was so successful that plans are now in the works for an expanded version of the show, which includes an art installation, poetry, theater, school programs and dance, which will go on tour next year.

In the meantime, Brooklynites can feast their eyes and ears on the latest version of "Cat Calls" at Smack Mellon Studios in DUMBO on July 27.

Curated by Mwendo, the exhibit "examines the phenomenon as a living environment, seeking to gauge its effects on women and young girls and to expose men to catcalling from a female perspective."

The exhibit includes a "Walk of Shame," a type of hallway with projected images of leering men who stare, lick their lips and mouth prostitutes as the viewer walks through.

"Empathy isn't something you can learn by reading," said Mwendo. "You have to experience it."

The "Talking Heads Panel Discussion" is a series of pre-recorded interviews edited to simulate an actual live discussion.

See **ABUSE** on page **GO 2**

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ABUSE...

Continued from page GO 1

sion, represented by a five-member display. The panelists — men, women and teens from the Lower East Side Girls Club — discuss why men catcall and how it affects women.

There is also a new dance work, "Women Navigating Through Space" by Kwame Ross, the founder and artistic director of Prophecy Dance Theater and associate artistic director of Urban Bush Women. Ross' work details a woman's journey through her daily life.

In addition, performance artist Liza Jesse Peterson will read her provocative "Ice Cream" poem live, and actors will perform a humorous skit recreating various catcalling scenarios written and directed by Aminisha Ferdinand. The skit incorporates her first-hand experience with daily catcalls on the streets of New York.

"We jotted down a list of scenarios — catcalls from across the street or from a car, or walking past a group of men — and we gave those to Aminisha," said Mwendo. "She took them to the next level. It's hilarious. When you take something so seriously, you see how idiotic it really is — that was [Executive Director] Elissa Blount's idea."

Mwendo explained that the exhibit is "unconventional" in its subject matter as well as its setup. There are no chairs in the Snack Mellon space. The exhibit is open to be explored and the dance, DJ b.net's spinning and theater piece will happen when they happen — spontaneous happenings.

Blount explained that her organization's "whole mission is to expose vanguard art and art on the cutting edge. We're particularly focused on new media and visual arts. We give a plat-



Confronting her fears: Red Clay Arts will screen Maggie Hadleigh-West's documentary "War Zone," in which the filmmaker walked the streets with her camera, filming catcalls she received.

form to stuff that is not represented in mainstream places like a museum. It's work that is usually marginalized. "Cat Calls" is a perfect expression of that kind of art," said Blount. "You don't think of an everyday experience in an artistic context." She explained that when Red Clay first unveiled "Cat Calls" in February, they didn't have plans — artistically or financially — to expand it into a

large, traveling exhibition. Now the organization has raised considerable additional funds to expand the show and to take it to a wider audience.

A lot of the element is technology driven," said Mwendo. "We need up-to-date computer and video equipment and video editing services. It's a pricey exhibition."

But that won't slow Red Clay's mission to bring the show to new locations. Next year, "Cat Calls" will travel to

the Ashe Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans.

"Jenga was able to tap into something every human has experienced on one level or another — or at least witnessed," said Blount.

"We're kind of reacting to the success of the show. We're making that the centerpiece for next year."

In brainstorming ideas for outdoor components of the show, the curators had business cards printed, "so whenever [a woman] is catcalled, she can give the man a card," said Mwendo. "And the phone number on the card is the number at Red Clay Arts that will explain if you got this card, you did one of three things..." The voicemail will be ready by July 27th.

Another new outreach component was an online survey and questionnaire. Mwendo said they would post the results at the show in a creative way.

The doors open at 6 p.m. with a screening of Maggie Hadleigh-West's 1998 documentary "War Zone." Hadleigh-West was grappling with catcalls for seven years, and her answer was to turn her camera on the men who were harassing her. Her film about "street abuse" premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival and had a run at Film Forum in Manhattan.



You talkin' to me?: Red Clay Arts curator Jenga Mwendo (left) and executive director Elissa Blount, with videotaped interviews of men and women sharing their perspectives on catcalls, in the Red Clay offices at 334 Grand Ave.

Because of these varied elements of the show, including school outreach and the "conscious effort to not be heavy-handed and preachy," Blount said she hopes the show "will spark communication among the genders. It's almost sociological the impact it could have."

Even a simple list hung on a wall proved to be an eye-opener. "One of the elements of the February show was a log," said Mwendo. "During one week, I wrote where, when and what catcalls were said to me. It was posted on the wall — this long, long list. Women know, but during the Q&A, a man stood up and said, 'I didn't under-

stand the volume.' "One of the men who stood up brought up that he gained a sense of responsibility — he should tell other men why it's wrong, why they should think it's disrespectful. They thought they're telling you that you have a nice ass and you should be happy."

"But how are we supposed to know who's a nice guy and who's going to rape me? I would like my sex not to be a danger to me. I would like to stop acting as though they cannot control themselves, to stop blaming women for turning them on."

Mwendo sent to her colleagues a year ago. Underlying the show's components are a ball of rights — a challenge to the exhibit visitors and society at large — which she set forth in her e-mail.

"I would like to give and receive respect from all men, regardless of their age or looks or marital status," wrote Mwendo. "I would like to feel safe no matter what time of day I walk in the street. I would like my sex not to be a danger to me. I would like to stop acting as though they cannot control themselves, to stop blaming women for turning them on."

WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, JULY 25

CIRCUS: Clyde Beatty and Cole Bros. Circus returns to Marine Park. 5:14 adults, \$9 children and seniors, 5 and 8 pm. Flatbush Avenue U west of Flatbush Avenue. (718) 252-4137.

BANQUENATEK: The films of Jean Grenier. Today, "Lumière d'Est" (1963). 2:40, 6:50 and 9:10 pm. \$9. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 438-4100.

OPENING RECEPTION: "Moving Picture," a dance and photography project by Julie Lemberger. 6 to 8 pm. Five Wines, 538 St. Johns Place. (718) 783-4438.

RECEPTION: DUMBO Arts Center exhibit "Press Me the Butterfly." 5 to 7 pm. 30 Washington St. (718) 694-0831. Free.

TOWN HALL MEETING: Assemblyman Roger Green moderates a community meeting that discusses development of downtown Brooklyn. 7 pm. Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church, 144 St. Felix St. (718) 783-0908. Free.

YOGA: Movement Arts Center and Friends of Mother Cabrini Park offer a workout. 7 pm. Mother Cabrini Park, President Street near Van Brunt Street. (718) 403-0388.

BOOK COURT: presents author Adam Haslett reading from his book "How Are We Not a Stranger Here?" 7 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 875-5677. Free.

FILM: "I Was a Teenage Feminist," a feature-length documentary. 10 includes food, drinks, live music. 7 to 10 pm. Gallery 718, 144 Fifth Ave. (718) 789-5776.

LIVE MUSIC: at O's Restaurant. No cover. 7 to 11 pm. 161 Myrtle Ave. (718) 522-4040.

HOUSE CONCERT: Borough President Marty Markowitz hosts the 24th annual concert series. Tonight: Tribute to Motown, featuring The Four Tops and Dennis Edwards. Temptations. 7:30 pm. Seaside Park at Fifth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 469-1912. Free.

STORIES IN THE GARDEN: Volunteers read stories out loud to children and adults. 7 pm. Lemonade and cookies served. Hoyt Street Garden, Atlantic Avenue and Hoyt Street. (718) 237-0145. Free.

BIRTH OPTIONS: Park Slope Food Co-op offers a talk on home birth, birthing centers and hospitals. 7:30 pm. 762 Union St. (718) 625-0560. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Chamber music program of Haydn, Webern and Schubert. 7:30 pm. Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: presents the film "Fantasia" (1990). 8:30 pm. Prospect Park Band shell, 9th Street at Prospect Park. (718) 655-1882.

FILM SERIES: Brooklyn Bridge Park Summer Film event. Tonight: "The Way We Were" with Barbra Streisand. 8:45 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, enter on Water Street between Main and New Dock streets. (718) 802-0603. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Toby Goodhanks hosts a party for his new CD. 8:30 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BROOKLYN UCELM: Island band MUM. 9:15 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (866) 497-2687.

FRI, JULY 26

READINGS IN THE PARK: Kids are invited to hear local authors. Today, Patricia Smith reads from her works. 11 am. Brower Park. (212) 362-6200. Free.

CAROUSEL RIDE: Free ride every Friday. 11 am to 3 pm. Prospect Park at the Children's Corner. (718) 282-7789.

BANQUENATEK: The films of

THURS, JULY 25

FAMILY THEATER: "Alice in Wonderland." 8 pm. See Sat., July 27.

SAT, JULY 27

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WALK IN THE PARK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment presents a walk in Prospect Park. Learn natural history and folklore of species and how they got their names. \$5. 80 members, 11 am to 1 pm. Meet at Tennis House Prospect Park and Ninth Street. (718) 788-8200.

PEDAL BOATING: On the lake in Prospect Park. \$10 per hour. 11 am to 4 pm. Rentals behind Velour Center. (718) 282-7889.

AUDUBON CENTER: Learn which birds are in Prospect Park for the summer during a weekend tour. \$3 per ride. Call for information. (718) 282-3400.

PERFORMANCES

OUTDOOR THEATRE: The Company presents production of Carlo Gozzi's "The King Stag," a fable of magic, intrigue and romance. 3 pm. Harmony Playground, Prospect Park. (212) 474-7773. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Chamber music program of Brahms, Debussy and Fauré. 7:30 pm. Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra. 8:30 pm. Prospect Park Band shell, 9th Street and Prospect Park West in Prospect Park. (718) 655-1882.

HALCYON CAFE: Mix the Vibe and the Vibe. 8:30 pm. 225 5th St. No cover. 225 5th St. (718) 260-7400.

CHILDREN

AQUARIUM: Celebrate America and the animals found along our shores with the theme event "From Sea to Shining Sea: A Marine Mammal Celebration." NY Aquarium offers workshops, live music, antique cars and more. 9:30 am to 4 pm. West End Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-5594.

PROSPECT PARK ZOO: Visitors are invited to chat with and find out about zoology. Today, "Life Underground" invites participants to learn why some animals prefer living

underground. Also, create a prairie dog puppet that pops up from a tunnel. \$2.50, \$1.25 seniors. 50 cents for children 3 to 12. 1 to 3 pm. 450 Flatbush Ave. (718) 399-7339.

PLAY: Neighborhood Theater for Kids presents interactive comedy "The Singing Type."

Appropriate for children ages 3 to 9. \$5. 2 and 4 pm. St. Mary's of the Sea Parish Hall, 467 Court St. (718) 522-0337.

CIRCUS: Clyde Beatty and Cole Bros. Circus returns to Marine Park. 1:30, 5 and 8 pm. See Thurs., July 25.

FLAX FEST: Lefferts Homestead invites kids to harvest this year's flax crop. 2 and 3 pm. Flatbush Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard. (718) 789-2822. Free.

PUPPETWORKS: "Punchinello," \$7. \$3 children. 12:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 945-3911.

OTHER

BANQUENATEK: The films of Jean Grenier. Today, "The Strange Mr. Victor" (1936). 2:

4:30, 6:50 and 9:10 pm. \$9. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES: The home team plays the Rutgers Muckdogs. 6 pm. Call for ticket information. Surf Avenue between 17th and 19th streets. (718) 449-8497.

SUN, JULY 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WILD FOOD: Volunteer Steve Bull leads a wild food tour of Prospect Park. Learn about our edible Call for meeting location

CELEBRATE

MUSIC DANCE WORD FILM

FRIDAY - JULY 26 - 8:00
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP
"A legend" - The New Yorker

THURSDAY - JULY 25 - 7:30
DAVID NEUMANN & NICHOLAS LEIFERDANCE

THURSDAY - AUGUST 1 - 7:30
NORTH BY NORTHWEST SEX MOB
performs movie music from A to Z

WEDNESDAY - JULY 31 - 7:30
DAVID NEUMANN & NICHOLAS LEIFERDANCE

FRIDAY - AUGUST 2 - 8:00
WILLIE VILLAGER
All day festival of Puerto Rican music, culture and a marketplace with food, clothing and crafts. Presented in collaboration with the Caribbean Cultural Center

THURSDAY - AUGUST 8 - 7:30
JAILHOUSE ROCK
Elvis Presley's best film...
LOSER'S LOUNGE
All-star tribute to the rock film

FRIDAY - AUGUST 9 - 7:30
ELLY GUERRA
Presented in collaboration with the Latin Music Conference

SATURDAY - AUGUST 10 - 7:30
RAY SANTOS ORCHESTRA
featuring CHOCOLATE & NELSON GONZALEZ
Classic Karaoke on a giant dance floor - film clips from back in the day on a giant screen. Presented in collaboration with the Caribbean Cultural Center

Two timer

Tintos owner scraps the tapas for French-Mediterranean menu in Henry St.'s new Isobel

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Love can be lovelier the second time around. The same can be said for careers and even restaurants. Take Isobel, a new French-Mediterranean restaurant that opened in Brooklyn Heights early this June replacing Tinto, a short-lived tapas bar and restaurant.

Tinto had a great location on pretty Henry Street and talented sous chef Tony Raggi, but tapas-style cuisine had been its moment in the sun. Kevin Epstein, who owned Tinto and is now teamed with Ben Weiner (his daughter is Isobel), gave the space a makeover, revamping the former restaurant's bright tiles and flashy colors into a cooler, more elegant "bistro by way of taverna" decor.

The walls are now painted a soft

eco. Simple pewter chandeliers illuminate the rooms. Tables are crafted of rustic wood and the comfortable banquets, seating about 75, are covered in soft, brown leather.

Given the opportunity to invent the menu, Raggi, now the restaurant's executive chef, created dishes based on his childhood in Marseille and his training in restaurants throughout

France and the Mediterranean. His menu includes many of the French classics you'd expect to find: pan-seared foie gras, charcuterie platters of assorted meats and cheeses, and a rich chocolate moussaka.

For carnivores there are entrees of roasted chicken, a football-sized pork chop and filet mignon in a rich merlot sauce. The menu emphasizes seafood with a raw bar, a delightful ceviche appetizer (or raw fish marinated in lime or other citrus juice, the acid of which "cooks" the fish and firms the flesh, which is then served cold) and three fish entrees. When it comes to seafood — simplicity reigns in Raggi's kitchen. And, that is how it should be.

Start with a half-dozen French Edvard Island oysters from the raw bar. Served over ice, the oysters are one part

steely mineral tang and one part salty ocean wave. A squirt of lemon or a quick dip in the searing hot house-made cocktail sauce and it's easy to forget that it is 100 faint-inducing degrees outside the restaurant's door.

Ceviche is another refreshing first course for a blisteringly hot evening. It was served fish, a sweet, mildly flavored fish in four palette teasing sauces:



Mediterranean makeover: (Top left) The lounge at Isobel restaurant, 60 Henry St., on Friday. (Top right) Shirley Fung serves the ceviche appetizer and endive salad. (Bottom, left to right) Neil Seltzer, executive chef Tony Raggi, sous chef Jaime Suarez and Frank Vellutini at the raw bar. **BP** / Greg Margolis

marinated in corn, tequila and lemon juice with the surprise of tiny bits of jalapeno peppers; a pungent Asian-inspired soy sauce flavored with fresh dill, thin slices of cucumber and lime; a creamy Mexican rendition with avocado, crisp corn kernels, chipotle pepper, lemon and lime juices; and a delicate sauce of roasted tomato, red onion, peppers, garlic and lemon juice.

Beef carpaccio, paper-thin slices of

raw beef fanned over a plate like flower petals was splashed with a ginger and blood orange emulsion made tangy with lemon juice. Sections of blood oranges dotted the top of the beef slices and a healthy dose of freshly ground black pepper gave the dish a little heat.

I have not stopped raving about Raggi's striped bass. The fish is first pan seared, then briefly roasted in the

DINING

Isobel (60 Henry St., between Cranberry and Orange streets) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Dinner reservations: \$16.50. Isobel is also open for brunch Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 am to 3 pm. For reservations, call (718) 243-2010.

oven. The result is a velvety, moist, big-flavored piece of fish with a satisfying, crunchy crust. The fillet is served well cooked — not nearly raw as they're often served — baby carrots, tiny zucchini and a few peas for color. Small morel mushrooms are sautéed and scattered over the fish imparting a woody, smoky note to the dish. Raggi's sauce, slightly tart and creamy, is a simple reduction of shallots, mushroom stock and just a touch of cream fraiche. It is an utterly beguiling dish.

The Moroccan vegetable trio — couscous lightly flavored with lemon zest, mint and cumin; a mildly seasoned (not spicy as stated on the menu) ratatouille of eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes and peppers; and a pretty vegetable terrine layered with carrots, cauliflower, peppers and broccoli is an attractive trio on the plate and won't weigh you down on a hot evening, but comparing its mild flavors to the "wow" — inducing taste of that striped bass is like comparing Amy Grant to Janis Joplin.

For dessert, order the summer pudding, which resembles a whimsical little party hat — all frills of whipped cream fraiche and ruby-colored berries. Raggi dips slices of brioche into blueberry coulis (pureed berries), then layers the slices with raspberries, tiny wild strawberries and blueberries. The brioche is moist from the coulis and sweetened by the berries.

Chocolate mousse is rich to the extreme — its cocoa taste deepened by the addition of mango. There is also a selection of four cheeses, a chocolate lover's cake, gelatin ascorbates in summery fruit flavors and a feather-light espresso panna cotta in an almond milk sauce.

Hire charming waitresses who know every ingredient in every dish and can recommend wines from the large international selection of reasonably priced bottles; offer a setting that encourages diners to linger and serve dishes as heart-thumpingly delicious

as that makes dining at Isobel so lovely — the very first time around.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 508, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 634-0278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

CONCERT IN THE PARK: Luther an Medical Center hosts its evening entertainment series. Tonight: Movie Under the Stars. 8 p.m. Shore Road Park at 79th Street. Call for movie title: (718) 236-4044. Free.

SUPPORT GROUP: Mothers of Multiples, 8 to 10 p.m. Mothers Multiples Medical Center, 4802 Tenth Avenue. Pre-registration required. (212) 363-8940. Free.

DAY CAMP: Pictet Children's Hospital hosts a day camp. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 3816 Grand Avenue, (718) 629-5400.

LIBRARY PROGRAM: Brooklyn Public Library offers kids' programs. Multiple locations include Third Street Playhouse, Carroll Park, Sunset Park and Owl Head Park. Call for time schedule. (718) 230-2458. Free.

TUES, JULY 30

FILM SERIES: St. Francis College presents the film "Gullford Park Noon and 5 p.m. 180 Remsen St. (718) 497-5272. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: The films of Jean Grenville. Today: "A Woman's Love." 4:30, 6:30 and 9:10 p.m. 99 St. Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

IN THE GARDEN: Spoke the Hub Dance hosts a series of workshops. Today: watercolor with Greg Flannery. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. 178 Union St. (718) 627-5158. Free.

GENERAL MEETING: Park Slope Food Co-op holds its monthly meeting. 7 p.m. Congregation Beth El Shalom Temple House, 274 Garfield Place. (718) 622-0560.

DEAF FOR DEPRESSION: Hosted by Park Slope Food Co-op. 7:30 p.m. 178 Union St. (718) 622-0560. Free.

JAZZ: Arlene Leonard Quartet performs. No cover. 7 to 11 p.m.

WEDS, JULY 31

LUNCHEON MUSIC SERIES: Borough President Marty Markowitz weekly music series. Today: Red Rube performs Latin jazz. 12:30 p.m. 4845 Hall Avenue. (718) 802-3832. Free.

MOVIE NIGHT: Carroll Park hosts feature film "Norma Rae." 8:45 p.m. Carroll and Court streets. (718) 855-4975. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: The films of Jean Grenville. Today: "Madness" (1928). Live piano accompaniment. 7 p.m. 99 St. Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES: play Ontario Tigers. 7 p.m. Call for ticket information. Surf Avenue between 17th and 19th streets. (718) 449-8497.

JAZZ: Arlene Leonard Quartet performs. No cover. 7 to 11 p.m.

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ON THE TRAIN: NY Transit Museum offers a day-long tour including a ride on the 4 train, followed by a walk through Highland Park, Richmond Junction Boulevard, Buxton and Williamsburg. \$25, 500 members. 10 am. Call for reservations and meeting location. (718) 494-5139.

PERFORMANCES

HANGOVER HELPER: Hazyton Cella presents music with Kiki. Noon to 7 p.m. No cover. 227 Smith St. (718) 240-WALKY.

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